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FEBRUARY 10 - 16, 2011

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BY STEPHEN J. RENO

GRANITE VIEWS

Lead by example



Every year at this time, since 1992, a rather curious phenomenon has been occurring here in our state. It has nothing to do with weather, sports or politics. Each January to March,

people across New Hampshire apply or are nominated to participate in a 10-month-long adventure of learning about the Granite State.

They are entrepreneurs, attorneys, health-care professionals, owners of businesses large and small, financial service people, public-sector officials, and nonprofit leaders. They go through an application process nearly as rigorous as any selective college or university admissions cycle. Although they are well established in their respective fields, they fill out application forms, write essays and submit résumés and references. Then, two alums of the program meet with them to talk about their service to the community, their civic engagement and their interest in the state. A selection committee reviews the materials and makes decisions, and then the letters go out. Some candidates may even feel an echo of that long-ago twinge of anxiety, awaiting "The Letter."

Sound familiar? I hope so. This is the annual nomination and application cycle for Leadership New Hampshire (LNH), which was created in response to recommendations from the Governor's Commission on the 21st Century to "identify emerging talent; motivate emerging leaders concerning statewide issues and perspectives; build the expectation that they will take on leadership roles on statewide issues; and develop a network for effective leadership."

Nearly two decades later, LNH has inspired, educated and engaged more than 550 citizens. Through a unique educational program, these "associates" meet with top state officials, judges, educators, prison inmates, students, artists, corporate leaders and others who receive, deliver or make decisions and policy that affect services across the state.

There's a good reason why the selection process is as it is, namely, the participants, talented and experienced individuals as they are, are at least half of the curriculum, for they learn from one another, form networks, and identify projects on which they can collaborate.

Graduates of the LNH program include established and emerging leaders from across the state with a wide range of backgrounds, professional skills, interests, geographical locations, and ages. The result is a statewide community of diverse and active leaders, working together to improve the daily lives of our neighbors, strengthen our businesses, shape our policies and positively impact our future.

Our state is fortunate to have LNH. Perhaps it's an opportunity for you or someone you know. Check it out at www.leadershipnh.org, where you'll find a listing of LNH's impressive alumni, the annual program, and application materials.

Good news from Hippo publisher Jody Reese: Nationwide occupancy rates for residential apartments are on the rise, up almost 2 percent for 2010. Commercial leasing is also picking up, according to the folks at Grub and Ellis. If companies are renting more space, they'll have to hire people to fill that space.



12 Heat it up

Is it just us, or is everyone tired of dirty snow and gray skies? We've sought out the warmest, coziest, spiciest, hottest and brightest ways for you to enjoy not only Valentine's Day but the weekends beyond.

Also on the cover: It's time to vote! The ballots for Hippo's Best of 2011 readers' poll are available online (www.hippopress.com) through February. Vote for your favorite restaurant, hair stylist and more. See details on page 19.

February Vacation week is almost here. We show you where your kids can spend the week not being bored, on page 26.

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NEWS & NOTES

News in Brief

• **Where did the Cage the Elephant go?** WFNX 92.1 has been having some issues this week with a transmitter on the top of Mount Monadnock, of which listeners in southern New Hampshire where probably aware. The station wasn't down entirely, as broadcasts could be heard in some places in New Hampshire, as well as Maine. As of Tuesday afternoon, the alternative rock station, which is based in Boston and broadcasts on 101.7 FM in Massachusetts, was expecting to be able to get their engineering consultant to the top of the mountain via snowmobile Wednesday morning, said David Dinnage, vice president of operations for the Phoenix Media Communications Group, the parent company of WFNX. Roads in the vicinity of the mountain have been closed, which has made access difficult. Dinnage also said it's been difficult to procure equipment to get workers to the top. He was hoping to have a solution in place by Wednesday morning. Typically, in cases like these the state police can lend a hand, but they've been swamped with other weather-related issues, Dinnage said.

• **House GOP offers budget ideas:** House Republican leaders released revenue figures for the next biennial budget, as well as tax and fee reductions that will be included in the budget process. House Speaker William O'Brien, Majority Leader D.J. Bettencourt, Ways and Means Committee Chairman Stephen Stepanek and Finance Committee Chairman Ken Weyler spoke at a press conference about a budget that

will include more than \$4.4 billion in taxpayer funds during the next two years. The House budget will not include any new taxes or fees and will include tax and fee cuts, according to the House Republican office. The plan would repeal the \$30 car registration fee hike, eliminate the tax on gambling winnings, and reduce auto inspection sticker fees, marriage license fees, vital records fees, application fees for builders, license renewal fee increases for restaurants and lodging facilities and pet store license fees. House Republican leaders said lawmakers needed to keep the budget within the expected \$4.4 billion revenue amount. Weyler said the Finance Committee agreed unanimously to keep spending within these revenue numbers. Lawmakers are charged with creating a budget that closes a nearly \$900 million gap.

• **State GOP has new communications director:** Christine Baratta will take over where Ryan Williams left off as communications director for the state Republican party. Williams recently left his post after serving two years on the job. Party Chairman Jack Kimball announced that Baratta would fill the post. Baratta was communications director for Jim Bender's campaign for U.S. Senate this past year and worked as a talk radio producer in Boston for more than 10 years. She covered the 2008 New Hampshire primary and presidential election for Bloomberg News.

• **New Nashua Y to open in May:** The YMCA of Greater Nashua announced that Saturday,

May 21, will be the opening date for the new 40,000-square-foot Nashua YMCA next to Stellos Stadium and Mine Falls Park, just off Exit 5 of the Everett Turnpike. The YMCA has been located on Prospect Street since 1964. A local donor with interest in green technology will match donations dollar for dollar up to \$100,000, according to a YMCA press release. The YMCA has about \$650,000 to raise before the new facility opens. The LEED-registered facility will have skylights, recycled floors and an energy management system. Construction materials have been recycled. Visit www.nmymca.org to donate online.

• **Goffstown turning rail into trail:** Goffstown Selectmen have formally accepted a federal transportation enhancement grant for work on the 5.5-mile Goffstown Rail Trail. The town received initial notice of the grant last May. Transportation enhancement grants fund community-based projects that expand travel choices and improve transportation infrastructure, according to a Rail Trail press release. Project design was expected to be completed this summer, with construction taking place next year. The town will receive about \$316,000 for work on four sites along the trail: two are at grade trail crossings of Mast Road; a third site is where the trail crosses Henry Bridge Road, and at the fourth site, a 90-foot-long bridge will be installed over the former Henry Bridge Road, where a railroad trestle once stood. The Rail Trail follows the former Boston & Maine railroad right-of-way from the Piscataquog River

near Main Street in Goffstown Village, through Grasmere and Pinardville, to the Manchester line. Visit goftstownrailtrail.org.

• **State IT department has new boss:** The Executive Council confirmed Bill Rogers of Dover as commissioner of the Department of Information Technology last week. Rogers was chief information officer and managing director at Piscataqua Partners, a business advisory firm in Portsmouth, and has more than 30 years' experience in information technology in the private sector.

• **Bass, Guinta to serve on several House committees:** Rep. Charlie Bass recently found out what his committee assignments would be. He'll serve on three subcommittees on the House Energy and Commerce Committee: the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, the Subcommittee on Environment and Economy and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade. Fellow Rep. Frank Guinta will serve as vice-chairman of the Subcommittee on TARP, Financial Services and Bailouts of Public and Private Programs, which is part of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Guinta will also serve on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Aviation, the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, and the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. Guinta will also serve on the Budget Committee.



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New wireless franchise

After 15 years in the wireless world, Cheryl Brosnahan was ready to try it on her own.

Brosnahan opened her own Wireless Zone franchise in Penacook this past November. So far so good, says the Deerfield resident.

"I had a good start," Brosnahan said.

Wireless Zone is a premium retailer of Verizon Wireless. She says providing strong customer service is something the franchise prides itself on. They also pride themselves on being experts in the field. She's hosting a grand opening event from Feb. 11 to Feb. 13.

"My experience led me down this road," said Brosnahan, whose husband, daughter and sister help out at the store. In all, she has two full-time employees and two part-time employees. "I'd been thinking about opening a store for about three years."

Brosnahan worked for U.S. Cellular for 13 years in retail, business-to-business relations and as a store manager. She oversaw five stores and about 30 associates. She said her experience there helped her grow in the field.

"I really wanted to open my own store," Brosnahan said. "It was the best direction to go in with my experience and leadership skills."

Despite a tough economy during the past few years, her industry is one that hasn't altered much in the face of the downturn, she said. She

said it's still a growing industry.

Brosnahan was able to pick her own location in the Thirty Pines Plaza at 15 Village St. in Concord. A former associate who knew she was looking for space and a franchise opportunity pointed her in the direction of the location. She started thinking seriously about becoming a franchisee in February.

"I went after it, and when I got it I was ecstatic," Brosnahan said.

Working with her family has been good — an adventure at times, but it's been fun, Brosnahan said. Her husband did most of the build-out for the space and her daughter's ability to pick up the technology component has been key as well.

And in terms of the Penacook community in which she's located, Brosnahan couldn't ask for a better client base. She's had an opportunity to meet a lot of local residents and small business owners.

"This is a great community," Brosnahan said. "The people I've met are the most wonderful people. I'm very excited that we're here. They're wonderful. They're patient. They're just really great customers. We've enjoyed it so far and I think we made the best decision we could have."

Visit www.wirelesszone.com.
—Jeff Mucciarone

CONCORD

Speaker of the House William O'Brien, who is the prime sponsor of a bill aimed at expanding the death penalty law in New Hampshire, testified last week in **Concord** before the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. O'Brien wants the law expanded to include home invasion murders.

Hooksett

Police have received several reports in recent weeks of a coyote in the area of Chapel Lane, Hilton Drive and Depot Street in **Merrimack**. According to a Union Leader article, in one instance a coyote chased a woman up to her door, though she was unharmed. The article said the town's animal control officer has been unable to find the coyote, which has been rummaging through trash.

Manchester

Manchester Mayor Ted Gattas was slated to present the state of the city, while Gov. John Lynch was expected to discuss the state of the state during a Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce event at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics in Manchester on Wednesday, Feb. 9.

Manchester

About 12 snowshoes were presumably stolen from the **Dublin** Consolidated School recently. The handmade snowshoes were given to the school as a gift 15 years ago by students, according to an article in the Keene Sentinel.

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PRIMARY 2012

Primary sources online

NH dominates a Facebook election page

By Jeff Mucciarone and Adam Coughlin
news@hippypress.com



James Basbas created the 2012 Presidential Election Facebook page. Courtesy photo.

The 2008 presidential election was very good to Barack Obama. It wasn't so kind to Bill Clinton. The smooth-talking politician who dazzled crowds in the 1990s looked angry and confused as he stumped for his wife, Hillary. The world had changed a lot in 10 years. Now a politician is never talking to a confined audience. Social networking sites have linked the world, and New Hampshire is no exception.

A year before the primary, the 2012 Presidential Election Facebook page is abuzz with discussion and links to news articles. On Feb. 2, James Basbas posted an article from The Week asking if the Supreme Court will decide the 2012 presidential election. Every day there is at least one new post and it typically elicits comments. Currently, there are more than 1,300 members of the Facebook page. Most are from New Hampshire, but some are from as far away as California and Florida. The demographic is diverse but trends toward the older and includes such big names in politics as Jack Kimball, Jennifer Horn and James Pindell.

Basbas, who heads Search Engine Marketing and Social Media efforts for Altos Marketing Group, launched the site just before the November elections.

"You're always in election season in New Hampshire," Basbas said. "Like the Patriots, we're already looking toward next year."

"In New Hampshire, politics is a sport," said Sean Van Anglen, one of the earliest contributors and a man with his own political ambitions.

It has been a long time since the game was so much up for grabs and the stakes so high. Ben Hartford, a frequent commenter, said 2012 was a must-win for both parties. The Republicans need it as affirmation and to prove 2010 wasn't a fluke, and the Democrats need to win or else the Republicans will run away with the power.

Basbas said the 2012 presidential election is unique not only for its importance but because there is no clear front-runner on the Republican side. Basbas wanted a place where people could go and learn about the various candidates, as many of them would be new faces.

"We need to make sure we have proper vetting," Basbas said. "I am not sure we had that in the last election."

He said Facebook was the perfect place because it was, along with Twitter, a huge source of news for those engaged with politics. But people who aren't already involved also socialize on Facebook and so might encounter the information while there.

It is this primarily younger, disengaged group of voters that is most coveted by politicians. But the 31-year-old Hartford would not call them apathetic.

"Young people are not apathetic; they are just removed from traditional avenues," said Hartford, who comments regularly on the Facebook page. "They don't volunteer with campaigns, but they do volunteer a lot."

Hartford said it is the responsibility of

those who are active to meet them where they are, and they are on the Internet. And Hartford believes activism on social websites does leave the Internet and enter real life.

"Ron Paul and Barack Obama remade the Internet for politics," Hartford said.

It is this ability to reach people that

makes Facebook so powerful. Basbas said that in the past a politician would be able to speak at an event attended by a specific group, such as New Hampshire gun owners, and tailor the message toward this group. The politician could then move on to another rally and spin something completely different.

"On the Internet and Facebook you're talking to everyone," Basbas said. "So you have to be consistent."

Basbas said in politics there has been a sense that you can't win if you're honest. He hoped the Internet would usher in a new era where you can't win unless you're honest. He said this is not only the work of candidates but also voters.

"We, as a general public, have to accept we won't agree with 100 percent of what someone believes," Basbas said.

Basbas said he hopes the site picks up more momentum so that when politicians come to town it has the clout to request interviews. He would ask the members what their biggest questions would be and then ask those questions on their behalf or have a live chat.

Meanwhile:

- Former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty, who made a visit to New Hampshire last month, signed on for another visit to be a featured guest of the Granite Oath action committee, which was formed by Ovide Lamontagne. A date hadn't been set, but the visit was expected to happen this month or next, according to Granite Oath.

- Former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum swung through the Granite State once again last week. He visited with Republicans at former congressional candidate Jennifer Horn's home in Nashua and made a local radio appearance. This marked Santorum's ninth visit to New Hampshire in the past year or so.

- Former GOP political consultant Fred Karger has been visiting New Hampshire regularly as he explores a run for president. Karger, who advocates gay rights, recently made an appearance at Dartmouth College and at Element Lounge in Manchester. He's made 11 visits to the Granite State.

- Arizona Sen. John McCain, who won the GOP nomination for president in 2008 and has a warm relationship with New Hampshire voters, told Politico last week he doesn't plan on making any endorsements in the primary field this time around.

- Likely presidential candidate Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, filed his

year-end financing report last week for his Free and Strong America political action committee, which closes out 2010. According to the committee, the committee and its five state affiliates

raised \$6.3 million last year. He began this year with about \$1.4 million on hand. The Union Leader reported Romney visited with business leaders in Manchester last week.

Film has a primary purpose

The Genesis Code creators choose NH, Iowa for debut

By Jeff Mucciarone
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

It's no coincidence that the producers of *The Genesis Code*, a new movie dealing with questions of creationism and science, coordinated screenings of the movie in Iowa and New Hampshire last week.

"We didn't choose these very, very intentionally in the first caucus state and the first primary state," said producer Jerry Zandstra, tongue in cheek.

"We intend to spark a discussion and if I were blunt, I think we intend to pick a fight," he said.

The film aired last week at Cinemagic in Hooksett, in a free screening sponsored by New Hampshire Cornerstone, and with former senate and gubernatorial candidate Ovide Lamontagne making remarks.

"We knew we were taking on a subject that was going to be controversial," said Zandstra, who also plays the third lead role in the film, in which, according to www.thegeniscodemovie.com, a "college hockey player and a female journalism student struggle to find common ground with their spiritual faith and scientific studies."

Sharron Angle, who put up a tough fight against Senate President Harry Reid this past November, attended the screening in Iowa last week.

"It sort of struck a chord politically," Zandstra said. It's a topic Zandstra has plenty of experience with. He served as chairman of the Sam Brownback for President National Committee and ran for U.S. Senate in 2006. Zandstra mentioned a debate where several candidates went back and forth on the question of whether evolution is true. Zandstra is also a pastor.

Zandstra said the debate over creation in the realms of faith and science isn't a new one and it's had an interesting political history as well.

"What we're trying to do is not to say that what we presented is the final answer. Philosophers...can put their pens down," Zandstra said. "I think we can reasonably say there is a place for faith and science when thinking about the origin. Sure people

on the extreme right might hate it and people on the extreme left might say they hate it. And we say, good."

As part of the screening, officials conducted a statewide poll of Republican voters, asking them if they believe science and faith are in conflict, as well as who voters are supporting in the presidential primary. In the poll, which was conducted by Strategic National, Mitt Romney garnered 35 percent of the support among New Hampshire Republican primary voters, with Mike Huckabee coming in second and garnering nearly 14 percent of the vote.

In the survey, 39 percent of respondents said they believed science and Genesis are in conflict and 45 percent of voters believe the world was created in six days. Thirty-two percent of Republican voters believe the world is about 10,000 years old. In Iowa, 42 percent of caucus voters believe the Biblical story of creation and science are in conflict, while 45 percent of Iowa voters believe the earth is about 10,000 years old. Sixty-eight percent of Iowa caucus voters believe the earth was created in six days.

Beyond how Earth was formed, the movie also takes on the notion of academic freedom, particularly Christians' ability to freely express their faith, particularly in a science classroom.

Zandstra mentioned a recent controversial case at the University of Kentucky where a physicist was apparently not given a position because of his evangelical religious background.

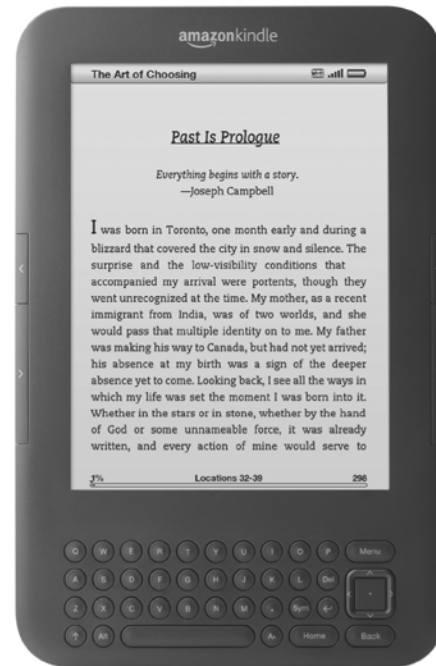
"I think people are going to want to know of higher education, are you supportive of students who want opportunities to express their faith?" Zandstra said.

The movie includes performances by Fred Thompson, Ernest Borgnine, Catherine Hicks and Louise Fletcher.

"We've had a tremendous response," Zandstra said, adding there were as many as 500 requests to see the film in Hooksett last week. They weren't able to make room for everybody, but Zandstra said officials were still finalizing a return trip to New Hampshire for another screening in the coming weeks.

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Wood pellets for warmth

Stove market is on the rise

While interest in wood pellets slowed some last year with oil prices remaining steady, the market has returned in full force this year. Jon Strimling is the president of American Biomass Cooperation in Goffstown, which sells wood pellets. Visit www.forgreenheat.org.

Q: *What trends have you seen?*
There's been a renewed interest. ... A combination of the colder weather and higher oil prices has pushed interest. People are using more pellets. With the price of oil so high, people are much more vigilant about making sure their stove is well-fed, so they're using as little oil as possible.

So far, how would this year compare to last year?

Last year, sales of pellets were slower. ... People became a little complacent as oil became a little cheaper.... But this year, oil has climbed again and consumers are opting for pellet stoves. ...

For someone thinking of going in this direction, what's the process of shifting to a pellet stove?

Most consumers go to a local shop that specializes in stoves. That's one of the basic decisions, to decide if you want a stove. Stoves usually keep the central living area of the home warm, the living room or the family room. Often it's used as a free-standing stove or it's inserted as a fireplace insert into an existing fireplace. ... They can be on the order of 20 percent more efficient than a central heating system. ... the pellets can save, depending on the price of oil, 20 percent more on fuel and another 20 percent of savings in efficiency gains, as opposed to heating the entire home, including the basement and the attic. ... In two ways, it saves cost because it's lower than the cost of oil, gas or propane, if you're heating with any of those three. ... [Strimling said a neighbor of his effectively heats just about his entire house with a stove centrally located in his living room.] The heat flows into the kitchen and the family room and then it lofts up the stairs to the second floor. ... A central furnace blows air all over and the whole house gets hot. There's lost energy in distribution. ...

What about people thinking about going with wood stoves? What's the difference there?

My first comment would not be as a wood pellet salesman, it would be as a citizen. I'm supportive of renewable energy. Any use of renewable fuels like wood, if you have an EPA-certified wood stove, and you have trees in your back yard and a chain saw, you can't beat the cost. If you're willing to do the work to buy it, bring it in ... sometimes cord wood can be cheaper. However, if you consider the more populated areas ... wood pellets would be quite competitive with cord wood, because you'd have to pay to have cord wood delivered. ... You're probably talking \$279 a cord, whereas ... wood pellets are less per ton. You can get significantly more out of a ton of pellets, which have been dried to a 6-percent moisture level. Cord wood that is dry could be 20 percent water. So you spend energy boiling out the moisture.

So the pellets are more efficient than wood?
It's different. In pellets, all the moisture is



boiled away in a factory. They're definitely more energy-dense.

Pellets are made from sawmill byproducts, is that right?

Most pellets come from waste from saw mills or other forest-

ry residuals byproducts. Forestry operations ... they're never harvesting to make pellets. ... The chips end up as pellets.

So there's no additional cutting?

It just wouldn't even be economical. You couldn't afford to do it. There's a lot of residual out of that process.

There's savings now by going to pellets, but what do the longer-term prospects look like?

For the last 10 to 15 years, the price of oil has gone up. We're expecting that to continue. I've been in the business since 2006, and at that time oil was at \$30 per barrel. Now it's at \$90 per barrel. So it's not only tripled in price, but the price of pellets has actually fallen. So the trend over any period you look at, the last three years, the price of oil has been rising. The supply is going down. There's ample renewable byproduct resources for the pellet industry to grow substantially. So we see the prices falling rather than growing.

For people thinking about going in this direction, what would you say to them?

...Usually if you want to do the environmentally friendly thing, you have to pay a price. If you want to not use plastic shopping bags, you need to buy the bag to eliminate the use of those. If you get a hybrid car, you need to pay extra and often ... the payback on those items is such that it's not clear actually that you're saving money. You usually pay more to do the right thing. ... This is a rare opportunity to do the right thing for the environment and save a lot of money. Customers save \$600 to \$1,000 per year heating their homes. They're thrilled to pieces. ... It's one of those great opportunities to do right for the environment and to do the right thing for the economy. With so many people out of a job, it's domestically produced. It's employing Americans. We're not shipping something from overseas. I can't see any reason to heat with oil.

[Don't worry about where your chimney is.]

...You don't need a chimney in the location you're going to put the stove in. You don't have to have a chimney in the exact corner of the living room you want to put the stove. These stoves are so efficient, the draft is cool and clean and there is no visible smoke. You can run a vent right up the side wall of the home. It's almost like a dryer vent. ... It's a horizontal vent up the sidewall with a four-inch pipe through the side of the house and you're done. They'll fit into most homes.

—Jeff Mucciarone

QoL

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

UNH drills deep

On Friday, Jan. 28, the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS) Divide project reached 3,331 meters (about two miles) into the ice to obtain the deepest ice core ever drilled by U.S. researchers, according to a press release from the University of New Hampshire. Why is UNH proclaiming the news? Because UNH provides "science coordination" for this project, which is funded by the National Science Foundation. The ice, which at that depth is from snow that fell about 100,000 years ago, is cut into sections that are sent to Denver and then cut into smaller samples that are sent to 27 investigators around the U.S. Part of UNH's job is to divide up the samples to different researchers.

QOL: +1

Comment: "The location was selected because it is the best place on the planet to determine how greenhouse gases have changed during the last 100,000 years," UNH said. A world-class university doing world-class work. See www.waisdivide.unh.edu.

More Internet

FairPoint Communications, which has had a rocky history here in New Hampshire, announced last week that it reached its goal of bringing broadband to 85 percent of its New Hampshire customers by the end of 2010. FairPoint, which is based in Charlotte, N.C., has turned up more than 290 new high-speed Internet sites statewide, making broadband available to more than 60,000 additional homes and businesses, according to a FairPoint press release. The company said it has invested more than \$135 million in infrastructure to bring broadband to northern New England, more than \$50 million in New Hampshire, and that broadband availability grew from 63 percent. The company filed for bankruptcy in October 2009 as it had trouble paying off debt after it bought \$2 billion worth of landlines from Verizon in 2008.

QOL score: +2

Comment: According to an article in the Charlotte Observer, FairPoint reduced its debt by about 64 percent since it filed for bankruptcy.

New Hampshire's fifth season

While many celebrate the Granite State for its ever-changing seasons, there is one season that is often forgotten: the aftermath. (The sixth is Mud Season.) We hope winter snow will ease, but when it does we will be left with a big mess. In fact, WMUR has recently reported both people and huge chunks of ice falling from roofs. Both can send you on an emergency run to the hospital or auto shop.

QOL score: -1

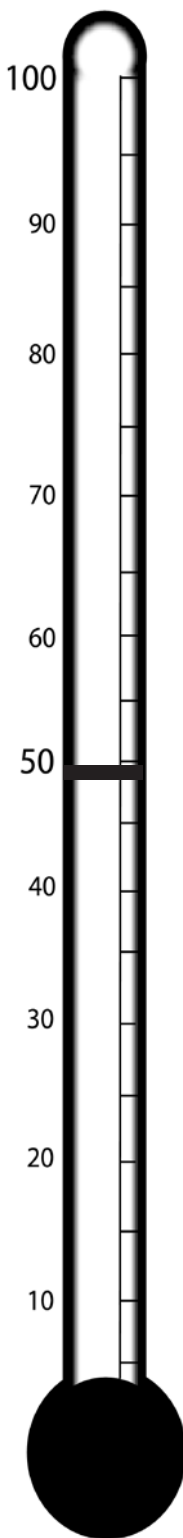
Comment: According to the state Fire Marshal's office, roofs can collapse with little warning, and not only flat roofs. So keep roofs as clear as possible — but stay safe. Watch for sprinkler heads pushed below ceiling tiles, bowed walls, and, of course, creaking sounds from overhead.

QOL score: 51

Net change: +2

QOL this week: 53

Notice something that changed the quality of life for good or for ill in southern New Hampshire? Let us know at news@hippopress.com



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With Green Bay's win over Pittsburgh in the Super Bowl, football is finally done and the NBA officially takes over the stage. Here's where it all stands.

Now that the Kevin Garnett of 2007 is back on the court, I have much more confidence and higher expectations for the Celtics than I ever had for the Patriots even when they were 14-2, because they have what you need most come playoff time: the best defense in the league. Ditto for the Cs over the vaunted Red Sox, because Jonathan Papelbon, Josh Beckett, Dice-K, Bobby Jenks and Hideki Okajima are all question marks.

What can derail the Cs is injuries at the wrong time, and given that Shaq, Jermaine O'Neal, Perk, Delonte West, Rajon Rondo, KG and now Marquis Daniels have spent considerable time on the sidelines, they have shown how vulnerable they are.

And in being justifiably careful with Daniels after that collapse on Sunday, Danny may now have to get a three before the deadline. With Daniels out for as much as two months, who's gonna cover LeBron when Paul Pierce gets in foul trouble and he doesn't make it back?

I was wrong — Pierce and Ray Allen have shown no noticeable slip as I thought they might.

But watch out for Chicago. When healthy they will present the most danger for the Celtics of any team in the playoffs. Derrick Rose is really good and the only point guard they're likely to see that will give Rajon Rondo real trouble.

And I'm sticking with my pre-season pick of the Oak City Supersonics coming out of the West to get to the Finals.

Does anyone out there care where, if or when Carmelo Anthony goes? Sorry, he ain't the difference-maker many people think, though he could kick a pretty decent team like the Lakers over the top.

And, while I know how good he is, you can have LeBron too. If I'm starting a team from scratch for the next 10 years I'm taking either Dwight Howard or Kevin Durant.

I can't remember if I've said this before or not, but if I have I'm sure an e-mailer will remind me. But, Big Baby Davis is the best charge-taker I've seen since I started watching the NBA in 1964. And the only one close was Jerry Sloan when he was playing for the Bulls. If anyone has a nomination please send it along to my dlong@hippopress.com address now that it's working again. And even if I did, I'm saying it again, 'cause he's great at it.

With all the hoo-ha about Ray Allen's breaking the all-time three-point record, anyone besides me and the Bonner family know that Matt Bonner is two ahead of Ray in second place in three-point shooting percentage in the NBA? As of Monday Matt's at 50.4 percent, to Ray's 45.7 percent, while Shawne Williams of the Knicks is first at 50.6 percent.

From the "I Guess the Game has Changed" Department: I'm probably the only one wondering about this. But in the first year the three-point play went into effect in Larry Bird's rookie year of 1979-80, Brian Taylor led the league with 90

makes and shot 37.7 percent for the year (Downtown Freddy Brown was the percentage leader at 44.3 percent). This year there were already 10 guys with more than 90 makes by Feb. 1 and if players keep their current pace more than 40 would make more than the 1979-80 league-leader did. And speaking of the 1979-80 NBA season, my legendary friend Dick Lutsik points out a similar thing happened in college basketball to my saying a few weeks ago that Matt Cassel has turned about to be a better pro than both Heisman winners he backed up in college. While not quite the same, Swen Nater was a career back-up to Bill Walton at UCLA, who went on to lead the NBA in rebounding when he grabbed 15 a game that season beating out Hall of Famers Moses (fo, fo, fo) Malone and Wes Unseld in the process.

And I just found out this week that current NBA rebounding leader Kevin Love, out of, oh by the way, UCLA, was given the middle Wesley in honor of the aforementioned Unseld, who was a teammate of his dad Stan when they played for the Baltimore Bullets.

For the young'n's in the house, the Bullets are the forerunner of the Washington Wizards with stops as the Capital Bullets and Washington Bullets before owner Abe Pollin thought the nickname Bullets sent the wrong message in the city that had the highest per capita murder rate in the country. And that doesn't even count when they were the Packers and later the Zephyrs before they moved from Chicago. The "I Guess the Game Has Changed" Department, Part II: Did you know that just-mentioned NBA rebounding leader Kevin Love is 10th in three-point percentage at 43.9 percent?

How come the NBA crowns its leading scorer based on points scored per game rather than total points? What if baseball gave out the home run crown like that? The Celtics lead the league shooting 49.9 percent from the floor as they try to become the first Boston team to shoot 50 percent in 20 years. The last to do it was the 1990-91 Cs in the second to last season of the Bird era, which turned the trick seven times in eight years between 1984 and '91. Here's a sample of Michael Jordan the executive's drafting record and some guys he passed on in those years. 2001: Kwame Brown, first overall (Pau Gasol, Joe Johnson, Tony Parker). 2003: Jarvis Hayes, 10th overall (David West, Boris Diaw, Josh Howard). 2006: Adam Morrison, third overall (Brandon Roy, Rudy Gay and Rajon Rondo). 2007: Brandon Wright, eighth overall (Joakim Noah, Al Thornton and Rodney Stuckey). 2008: D. J. Augustin, ninth overall (Brook Lopez, Roy Hibbert, Jerryd Bayless). Yikes.

By the way, I left my prediction for the Super Bowl out of last week's column by accident. So in case you're interested I had the Packers winning 32-25.

And speaking of football: after seeing the Pats wax the Jets 45-3 in early December and then get bounced out of the playoffs by them a month later, how can so many people — like WEEL.com and SI.com — think the Celtics' win over the Lakers in L.A. 10 days ago was sooooo significant?

Dave Long can be reached at dlong@hippopress.com. He hosts Saturday Morning Sports with Dave Long from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays on WGAM — The Game 1250-AM in Manchester and 900-AM in Nashua.

PEOPLE, PLACES & OTHER STUFF

Thompson's shots heard round the UNH world

The Big Story: Nice double by the hockey team at the U over Maine last weekend in 6-3 and 5-4 wins. Getting the largest share of the headlines was Derry's **Paul Thompson**, as the high-scoring forward got his 50th and 51st career goals on Friday and then got the game-winner and his 23rd of the year on Saturday with just 15 seconds remaining. The wins moved the sixth-ranked Wildcats to 17-5-4 on the year and dropped Maine to 11-9-6 overall.

Sports 101: Who is the only person to be both the league MVP and coach of the year in NBA history?

Hot Ticket: It's in high school hoops on Friday night when the Merrimack travels to the south end of Manchester to take on Memorial. Both started the week at 7-2 though the Tomahawks were slightly ahead in the NHIAA's equivalent of the NFL quarterback rating system at 3.666 to 3.333, whatever that means.

Do the Math: Not sure what this means, but the Celtics figured in three-point history last week. First, on Friday in a loss to Dallas, the Mavs set an NBA record by making a three in their 980th consecutive game to break the mark set by Toronto that ended earlier this season. Then on Sunday Orlando shot an awful 3 for 24 from downtown

and took 30 more shots than the Cs and still lost 91-80. For the mathematically challenged, 3 for 24 is a horrendous 12.5 percent.

Do the Math II: When was the last time you saw a basketball team win a game when they made just SIX field goals? Well the folks at the Memorial-Nashua North game on Friday night can say "last Friday night." That's when the Crusaders beat North 34-27 despite making just six shots from the field. They did it by getting 21 from the charity stripe led by **Amra Elezovic**, who had five to go along with her team-leading three field goals.

Superman Award: It goes to **Sam Daley (planet)** for pitching a 29-save shutout as Brady won the battle of the Bishops over Guertin 5-0 thanks to his Superman impression.

Sports Job of the Week: For the PR types out there: Saint Anselm is looking to hire a Sports Information Director for the Athletic Department. Check the employment section on their website.

Sports 101 Answer: The only one to pull off the feat of being NBA most valuable player and coach of the year was one Larry Joe Bird, who was MVP three times as a player for the Celtics and coach of the year when he led the Pacers to the NBA finals in 2000.

The Numbers

I – local kid among 15 recruits committing to play football at the U on national signing day. He's 5'9", 175-pound wide out/defensive back **Mike Kelly** of Bishop Guertin, hailing from Merrimack.

3 – wins last week for previously struggling SNHU with wins over Assumption, Franklin Pierce and surging Saint A when **Torey Singleton** was high with 20 points and got his 1,000th career point.

22 – foul shots made by Merrimack's **Rachel Carter** on her way to a 32-point

night when Merrimack came up short to Nashua South on Friday 59-48 as **Kaitlan Ackerman** led the way for the Panthers with 19 points.

11 – lead changes in nail-biter won by Saint Anselm women over SNHU 55-54 as **Epiphany Smith** overcame a tough three-for-12 shooting night from behind the arch to score a team-high 23 points for the Hawks.

16 – wins against just five losses for the Saint Anselm men after a 78-56 thumping of Merrimack on Saturday when freshman **Allen Harris** had a game-high 23 in the tune-up

for its after-deadline meeting with first-place Bentley.

26 – game-high points for **John Wickey** as he led Central to a 55-48 win over Londonderry on Friday night.

42 – combined points scored by **David Madol** (26) and **Shomari Morgan** (16) in leading 7-2 Memorial to a 75-52 win over Nashua North as **Javon Williams** had a team-high 19 for the Titans.

44 – saves by **David Thorp** to help stave off Manchester Memorial as Nashua North roared back from down 0-2 after two periods to win 3-2 in NHIAA hockey.

Sports Glossary

Swen Nater: Got to be the only guy to leave college after averaging just 4.0 points and 4.3 rebounds in his career to go on to be Rookie of the Year, as he was in the ABA for San Antonio in 1973-74. Spent 11 seasons in ABA and NBA with a whopping 8 teams, was two-time ABA All-Star, led NBA in rebounding once, faced the Celtics in the 1984 Finals while with the Lakers and won two national titles while at UCLA.

Bill Walton: Second-greatest college basketball player of all. At UCLA he played on two 30-0 teams that went on to win the National Championship. Also played on most of its record 88 straight wins, though he was there when Notre Dame ended it in January 1974 and when NC State ended the reign of 38 straight tournament wins and 7 straight titles later that winter in double OT as well. Led Portland to 1977 NBA title in great series over the '76ers of Dr. J and was with Boston when it won in 1986. But mostly he had an injury-derailed what-might-have-been NBA career, though he was

elected a Top 50 NBA player.

Downtown Freddy Brown: Long-range bombing guard off the bench for the Supersonics long before they were stolen by Oklahoma City. Played behind starters Gus Williams and future Celtic Dennis (Airplane) Johnson, as he was called when they were an elite team that played in back-to-back finals vs. Washington. Sixth overall pick in 1971 draft, hit high-water mark of 23.1 points a game in '75-'76 under Bill Russell when Sonics finished second to the Warriors in the West. #32 was retired by Seattle.

Wes Unseld: Undersized rebounding machine for the Bullets from the '60s into the '80s. Second overall pick in 1968 draft, earned Rookie of the Year and MVP honors the next season joining only Wilt Chamberlain, Fred Lynn and Ichiro to pull off that double that I can think off. Led league in rebounds once, was second 3 times with career best of 18.2 per in '68-'69. Best line ever was to a reporter who asked him why he doesn't dunk, to which he said, "because it hurts."

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Red hot romance

Spicy chocolate, hot air balloons and more ideas for a steamy Valentine's Day

After weeks of being buried in snow and cold, it's time to enjoy a little heat.

Forget the flowers and think heat this Valentine's Day. Warm up your insides with hot chocolate (with a hint of spice if you're feeling particularly lusty). Enjoy a hot and steamy night every night by considering that midwinter savior — the hot tub. Get above the slush and ice with a hot air balloon. Share a steamy and spicy Asian meal of hot pot. And fight cabin fever by taking one of the season's hot getaways — whether it's a local weekend of skiing, food and spas or a long weekend in points far south. Looking to heat up your February? We've got some spicy, steamy ideas.



Hot chocolate

Simmer slowly or bring to a lusty boil

By Rich Tango-Lowy
food@hippopress.com

*Young passion knows only fire;
Habañero-laced chocolate sears lips, throat, soul, heart.*

*Mother and babe suckle sweet chocolate
melted quickly in sugar-sweet milk.*

*With long hours chocolate and water become one.
Old woman pours the silky liquid into
burnished bowls and woman and man sip in silence.*

Chocolate has long been the stuff of love. Montezuma is said to have consumed 50 cups of chocolate each day, and one additional to give him stamina for a night of passion. French writer Paul-Loup Sulitzer writes "I know nothing more erotic than a bar of strong chocolate." Or if you're really uninhibited, this from early food writer James Wadworth (1768-1844): "Twill make Old Women Young and Fresh; Create New Motions of the Flesh. And cause them long for you know what, If they but taste of chocolate." Hot chocolate is

hot for a reason.

If you think love and chocolate is all in your head, you're right. Chemicals in chocolate cause your body to activate the neurotransmitter phenylethylamine, which mimics feelings of love, and to release dopamine, which creates a mild "high" and sense of well-being. Many foods have been hailed as aphrodisiacs, but chocolate's the real deal.

There are many ways to enjoy chocolate, but a warm cup of chocolate, a blazing fire, and a cold winter night are a recipe for pure romance.

Chocolate for Passionate Lovers

Bring a cup of water with two tablespoons of honey and a dried chipotle chili to a lusty boil over a fierce flame. Reduce the heat, stir in two ounces of chopped earthy Venezuelan chocolate and wait impatiently for one minute. Strain the liquid into a blender with a cup of hot milk and blend for 30 seconds. Pour into glasses and consume lustily.

Chocolate for Husband and Wife

Bring two cups of milk to a simmer with two tablespoons of sugar. Stir in an ounce of African milk chocolate — at

least 40 percent — and an ounce of dark Ghana chocolate and reduce the heat to very low. Cook 5 to 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Pour into china cups on saucers garnished with rose petals.

Chocolate for Those Long Entwined

The best hot chocolate is made with water rather than milk, but chocolate and water never truly blend. With patience and care, the two create something that is more satisfying than either alone, yet the chocolate remains chocolate and the water remains water.

Bring a cup and a half of water and two tablespoons of sugar to a rolling boil. Reduce the heat to very low, stir in two ounces of dark Madagascar chocolate and cook just below a simmer for an hour, stirring frequently. When the liquid is silky-smooth and you see no flecks of unmelted chocolate, stir in a pinch of sea salt and a drizzle of fresh cream. Froth briefly with a whisk, pour into comfortable earthenware bowls and sip slowly.

Hot tubs and saunas

Get away by getting in

By Jeff Mucciarone
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

Looking to spice up Valentine's Day this year with something steamy? Or maybe you'd like to give your special someone an excuse to slip on something skimpy? You'll probably want to wake up from fantasy land if those are your goals, unless you're still in college — and in that case, you can't afford to spice anything up anyway.

But both of you, and the rest of your family, might consider opting out of a costly vacation to Mexico and instead going with a hot tub this winter. Hot tub dealers say time spent reconnecting and relaxing in a hot tub away from the worries of the world will do lasting good for you and yours.

"The hot tub is great for therapy," said Lance Connor, who owns Spa Life Hot Tubs (www.spalifehottubs.com), which sells hot tubs online from a warehouse in Manchester and a showroom in Littleton, Mass. "It's proven...muscular therapy. It's great for stress relief. There's nothing better than getting into a hot tub outside in a snowstorm. Living in the Northeast, it's a good way to get away from the winter."

"I think as we serve more of an aging population, it's grown," said Bob Stencavage, who owns Oasis Hot Tub & Sauna (www.hotspas.com) in Nashua. "Empty-nesters in particular are...enjoying hot tubs now. There's still a fair amount of families."

Stencavage has seen families hold off on vacations and instead buy a hot tub. Families figure for the cost of one vacation or a little more, they can take a little vacation every day in the hot tub. When people go on a vacation, they want a hot tub and a fireplace where they're staying. Buy one yourself, and you can have the "next 20 years vacationing in your back yard."

Including installation, hot tubs typically range in price from about \$4,000 to \$14,000, according to local dealers. Energy costs can be negligible, Stencavage said, estimating usage costs at about \$1 per day.

Connor talked about how hot tubs serve as good places for families and couples to connect. He's also noticed more people interested in swim spas, which double as hot tubs but carry enough jet propulsion so that someone can swim against the current. (Exercise? We won't worry about that here.)

"The hot tub becomes an unplugged zone," Stencavage said. "Something we don't promote enough is that kids really open up and tell you what's going on when you're spending time one-on-one in the hot tub."

Older folks are looking for relief from daily aches and pains. Hot tubs can provide some enhanced vitality for people not ready to admit they're becoming less active, Stencavage said.

The entertainment and relaxation component is a big draw regardless of age.

Stencavage said he and his wife used to use their hot tub for socializing. Now, it's a nice reward at the end of shoveling.

Connor has noticed sales have dipped given the poor economy the last few years — but interest hasn't.

In the 1980s, there was only about a one-percent ownership rate in New Hampshire for hot tubs, compared to some parts of Cal-

ifornia where the rate was 27 percent. Since then, hot tubs have become more and more popular in the Granite State.

The sauna effect

A sauna is more specifically geared toward wellness and detoxification. It's a good way to work up a natural sweat — Stencavage said it's why women in Sweden and Finland have such great-looking skin. "It's a part of their culture over there," he said. Saunas also help people burn calories more efficiently.

"It's a mild form of exercise," Stencavage said.

Many people will hop into a sauna before or after exercise or before bed — it can be particularly relaxing, Stencavage said, adding that a stop in the sauna might alleviate the need for a pill in helping people fall asleep. As your body naturally cools back down after a sauna, drowsiness is induced.

Back to hot tubs

With all the snow that's fallen this year and with winter not feeling any shorter in New Hampshire, hot tubs provide relief from the cold, especially if you're relaxing on a deck or patio in a hot tub as the snow is softly falling around you, Stencavage said.

"A lot of people dread winter, unless they have a hot tub outdoors...," Stencavage said. "If it gets dark at 4 p.m. ... but it's a starry night, and you have light snowfall to look forward to, go outside and be outdoors, and be perfectly comfortable as long as you want to."

"There's always a romantic angle to it, of course," Connor said.

The one big thing Stencavage said he hears from customers is that they wish they hadn't waited so long to get a hot tub.

They say, "If I had known it would be so restorative, and good for the relationship..." Stencavage said, adding he's seeing previous hot tub owners buying a hot tub for their new home before they set up cable and other appliances.

Many dealers offer a chance to try out a hot tub before you buy.

Stencavage said people are happier when they're investing in experiences rather than just material goods.

"A hot tub is just a box of hot water," Stencavage said. "But what it represents is so much more."

Things to consider

Connor recommends always trying out a hot tub in advance. Energy-efficiency is one factor to consider, along with a quality service contract and warranty.

Most hot tubs are portable, so they can be set up just about anywhere. There's no plumbing to connect — just fill them up with water.

Spalifehottubs.com has a list of frequently asked questions for prospective consumers.

Connor suggested taking into account how many people are going to be using the hot tub at once. If you'll frequently be entertaining for six or more people, a three-person hot tub isn't going to cut it.

Connor also suggested being aware of what seem like too-good-to-be-true deals, particularly online deals. They probably are, he said.



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Hot air balloons

Sail in the clear winter sky



Life is all smiles when you're flying high in a hot air balloon. Courtesy of Tony Sica.

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

For hundreds of years, man strove to harness flight. But there is only one form of aviation that truly resembles the silent, graceful flight of a bird: the hot air balloon.

"The best way to explain it," said Tony Sica, owner of High 5 Ballooning in Derry, "is that you put yourself in a bucket and God lifts you up and you look around."

Sica said hot air ballooning is unique because it is the only form of aviation that is silent. There is no hum of an engine or whirr of a propeller. Riders are simply floating through the sky in a motionless air craft.

It is this quiet glide that Sica says puts many riders at ease. He said some 30 percent to 40 percent of his clients say they have a fear of heights. But in reality it is more of a fear of falling — a fear they do not experience in a hot air balloon.

Sica told the story of a young couple who was going to be married soon and the woman wanted to honeymoon in Martinique but the man was too scared to fly there. Yet she was able to convince him to try a hot air balloon ride.

"When he got in, the basket was shaking because he was so nervous," Sica said. "I told him to give himself some time."

It worked. Within 20 minutes the man was having a blast. This was typical, Sica said. What wasn't typical was when the woman called Sica two months later and said not only did they fly to Martinique but they went paragliding while they were there and the man recently signed up to sky dive.

"He loved being in the sky," Sica said. "The balloon allowed him to do it without fear. Historically it is the safest aircraft."

Yet the history of hot air balloons is riddled with fear.

Like the airplane, the hot air balloon was created by two brothers, Joseph-Michel and Jacques-Etienne Montgolfier in the 1780s. But, as Sica said, only one brother was crazy enough to ride in the contraption. The French king pardoned condemned prisoners and let them fly — "If they lived, they got to walk," Sica said. "If they died, well they were going to die anyway." Many

lived, but the question arose: what is the best use for a hot air balloon?

"Naturally, governments tried to turn it into a weapon," Sica said.

In theory, a hot air balloon provided a huge strategic advantage because you could see enemy troops. Unfortunately, it was too unpredictable and lacked control. If the wind blew in the wrong direction the hot air balloon basically became useless.

The modern hot air balloon, with an onboard heat source, came into existence in the 1950s and was built by Ed Yost. Sica said it was once again tried as a weapon but once again failed. This final failure would relegate the hot air balloon to a recreational activity. The problem, according to Sica, is the expense.

"Hot air ballooning is dying out," Sica said. "Because of costs."

There are only about eight manufacturers of hot air balloons in the world, according to Sica, and as a result a hot air balloon can cost anywhere from \$10,000 to \$75,000. But so can a boat. The difference, according to Sica, is insurance. If a hot air balloon rider wants to take even just his friends for a ride, insurance costs skyrocket. To compensate, many get a commercial license.

While the summer may seem like the ideal time, in fact, many hot air balloon companies fly year round, as long as there is a clearing to take off and land. Unfortunately, January's heavy snow has made that more difficult.

Yet, A & a Balloon Rides, also in Derry, is offering a special deal for Valentine's Day.

"It is a special romantic occasion," said A & a owner Andre Boucher. "A hot air balloon ride is peaceful and relaxing. You move with the wind."

Boucher said he only flies at sunrise and two hours before the sun sets because that is when the winds are the calmest.

Sica said 90 percent of his clients are couples and many are middle-aged. He said many have it on their bucket list. It can be expensive — Sica charges \$200 per person — "But it is a memory that lasts a lifetime," Sica said.

Hot pot

Make your own meal at the table

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

To escape the cold winter weather and keep your love simmering this Valentine's Day, treat yourself to some traditional Asian hot pot. An interactive dining experience, hot pot allows guests to cook their own food at the dinner table.

"It's pretty fun," said Bastian DiCaprio, owner of San Francisco Kitchen in Nashua, of hot pot, which he calls "Shabu Shabu" at his eatery. "It lets you work together as a team."

DiCaprio first experienced hot pot during a visit to Japan four years ago, in a village whose members attributes their long life expectancy to their diet, among other things. When he expanded San Francisco Kitchen, he decided to try out the dining style in the Gate City.

For hot pot, guests may opt for thin cuts of fresh raw beef, chicken, seafood and, at San Francisco Kitchen, ostrich, as their main courses, to be accompanied by plates of raw vegetables and other sides, including bok choy, mushrooms, tofu and udon noodles.

At San Francisco Kitchen, a metal pot divided into halves is filled with a miso vegetable broth — a popular fermented tofu soup that is very high in protein and mild in flavor — and spicy kimchee base, a fermented cabbage broth, is placed on the table's built-in induction burner. At Asian Breeze in Hooksett, which also serves hot pot, the waitstaff first brings over a propane burner, then a large metal pot filled with both plain and spicy seafood broth. Asian Breeze owner John Wu noted that hot pot can be a little complicated on the service side because it is not like a regular dish where servers typically only make one visit to the table to drop off an entrée.

Once pots and broths are in place, diners are instructed as to how to cook their meal. Meat, DiCaprio said, should be dipped in the simmering broth — which he said reaches the boiling point — for two seconds for a pink center or five seconds for a brown center. Seafood, chicken and pork, he said, should be cooked for 30 to 90 seconds, and leafy greens and ostrich

To make hot pot at home

Purchase a propane cooker (\$75 to \$150 on average) and fill a large metal pot with your desired broth, such as seafood or chicken stock or miso soup.

Hammer fresh meats thin for quick cooking and prepare a plate of fresh raw vegetables. Turn propane up until broth is brought to a boil, and use a fork, tongs or chopsticks to cook your meat or vegetables.



for 10 to 30 seconds. Fish, he added, should be cooked until it begins to appear flaky.

"It all depends on how you like it cooked," he continued, adding that the whole hot pot experience can last more 40 minutes, as guests like to take their time as part of the fun.

Chopsticks and tongs are used for dipping food into the broths, as are strainers with long handles so that guests can keep their food from floating around the pot.

The less hot the water, the longer it will take your meal to cook. Cook time is also contingent on how much food is kept in the pot at one time.

"Some people put everything in at once and that keeps the water from boiling, so it takes longer to heat up," DiCaprio said. "If you let the broth boil first and put your food in little by little, it will keep good."

After the meat and vegetables are cooked, many guests use a ladle to sip the broth as a soup. The broth, DiCaprio said, absorbs the flavors of the foods cooked in it.

"It ends up being a very good soup," he said.

Wu noted that eating hot pot style serves as an easy and healthy meal choice.

"If you want vegetables, meat, mushrooms and tofu, you don't have to cook everything separately," Wu said. "The pot saves you some time."

The meal, he said, is healthy because the food is not deep fried or cooked by stir-fry style and no oil is used in preparation. The Chinese-style barbecue sauce that is offered with hot pot at Asian Breeze contains fish and serves as a good source of Omega-3, Wu added.

Try hot pot at these eateries

Asian Breeze, 1328 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 621-9298, www.asianbreezenh.com

San Francisco Kitchen, 133 Main St., Nashua, 886-8833, www.sfkitchen.com

Wasabi Steakhouse, 236 North Broadway, Salem, 890-1688, www.nhwasabisteakhouse.com

Both are self-guided.

The Chocolate Tour is available between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and can be completed on cross-country skis or snowshoes; pick up a tour map and make six stops for a total fee of \$10. Start at the Mount Washington Hotel and traverse to the Bretton Arms Inn, the Lodge, the AMC Highland Center, the Yurt and back to the Bretton Woods Nordic Center, according to Peter Smith, director of the Nordic Center. At each location, there is homemade chocolate.

"Each stop is accessible by skiing," Smith said. "They can do it on snowshoes as well,

Hot dogging

Skis, spas and escapes

By Tori Loubier
tloubier@hippopress.com

Every winter, we long for a getaway. Here are some ways to celebrate a weekend away throughout this month and in March, to keep things hot on Valentine's Day and beyond.

Outdoors and in love

Up north, Bretton Woods is offering a fun choice: on Saturday, Feb. 12, couples can participate in the Sweethearts' Chocolate Tour during the day or the Sweethearts' Moonlight Nordic Ski and Snowshoe Tour.

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but it will definitely be an all-day event."

The Moonlight Nordic Ski and Snowshoe tour begins at 7 p.m.; couples guide themselves on snowshoes or skis along a candlelit wooded path. Afterward, there will be hot chocolate and treats to enjoy indoors.

Bretton Woods offers rentals for couples needing snowshoes or skis; Smith advises arriving an hour early to rent. Call 278-3322 or visit www.brettonwoods.com.

For an outdoorsy celebration further south, Charmingfare Farm in Candia offers one-hour horse-drawn sleigh rides every Saturday through March 5.

"It's very romantic. You have a private sleigh, cuddling and a blanket," said John Pyteraf, manager at Charmingfare Farm. "We have miles of trails. If you love animals and you want the scenery, you can do the ride during the day. Of if you want something more romantic, you can go during the night with the moon and the lanterns lighting the road."

"You see all this wildlife just playing in the snow...it's exceptional," Pyteraf said.

Charmingfare Farm witnessed 11 proposals on a recent weekend.

"I always tell the gentleman ... to pack a duffle bag, hide the champagne and the ring beneath a blanket. When you find a great stop, ask the driver to hold up for a minute and then just hope for the best," Pyteraf said.

Visit www.charmingfare.com/sleighride_social.

Mouth-watering coziness

If you want to devote a weekend to pleasing your taste buds, you're in luck. Two locations in New Hampshire are offering excuses to treat your sweet tooth or express your inner oenophile.

The Wild Orchard Guest Farm in Deerfield is hosting a weekend of all things chocolate on Feb. 13 & 14 led by master chocolatier (and occasional Hippo writer) Rich Tango-Lowy. Guests can sign up for a two-day stay

at this bed-and-breakfast with chocolate tasting, wine drinking and music. Call 424-0713.

Or take a weekend trip to the Seacoast to enjoy the Winter Wine Festival at Wentworth by the Sea in Portsmouth until Feb. 26. Valentine's Day weekend will host wine-maker Peter Merriam on Friday; Saturday will feature "Black Diamond Truffles and Coastal Pinot Noirs," followed by Domaine Chandon Bubbles and Jazz Brunch on Sunday morning, and a Veuve Cliquot Grand Vintner's dinner on Monday night. Following weekends will include Joe Carr of Joseph Carr Wines and guest chef Earl Anthony Morse of Bedford Village Inn on Feb. 18; and on Saturday, Feb. 26, a grand closing celebration, with music, food and wine from the previous six weeks.

Visit www.winterwinefestival.com to reserve your weekend.

Got to get away

"Warm-weather destinations are a tall order in the winter," said Nick Wallmer, manager of the Concord AAA office. But it's doable.

If you're looking to lay out in the sun for a few days, Wallmer suggests Florida or the Bahamas. "You need to go further south to really get good weather," he said. "If you want a funky or unique weekend, fly into Miami ... or drive down to Key West for a neat town with lots of social life."

If your job can afford you the luxury, make it a long weekend.

Getaway

Take a weekend trip to the Finger Lakes in New York to visit the Keuka Wine Trails. Buy a passport now and it will stay valid through April 30, good for two people. The wineries are hosting Truffles and Tastes Valentine's Day weekend, with wine and food pairings. Guests receive a different chocolate truffle at each winery. Visit www.keukawinetrail.com.

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THIS WEEK

EVENTS TO CHECK OUT FEB. 10 - 16, 2011, AND BEYOND



Monday, Feb. 14

This year you have four days — Friday through Monday — to find a way to treat your sweetheart to something special. Looking for a rundown of what area restaurants are doing? Check out last week's issue online at www.hippopress.com, where you'll find a handy list of Valentine's Day and Weekend meals starting on page 34 (use the flipbook!). Some late additions can also be found in this week's Weekly Dish, starting on page 34.



Sunday, Feb. 13

Take the Love Tour at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, free with museum admission. Docents will lead attendees on a tour of the Currier featuring artwork inspired by love. And for \$15, at 2 p.m. you can enjoy a one-hour romantic concert featuring guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan, followed by red velvet cupcakes in the museum's Winter Garden. Reserve tickets online at currier.org. Photo by Kelly Davidson



Friday, Feb. 11

Take a Valentine's Day snowshoe hike for couples from 6 to 8 p.m. at Beaver Brook Maple Hill Farm in Hollis, including a bonfire plus warm beverages and dessert, all for \$25 per couple. Beaver Brook educator Kap Siddall will guide participants on an evening walk through the snowy forest. Call 465-7787 or see www.beaverbrook.org.



Sunday, Feb. 13

If body-checking and net-crashing are more your thing than the traditional Valentine's fare, take in a Manchester Monarchs minor-league hockey game: they play the Springfield Falcons at 3 p.m. at the Verizon Wireless Arena at 555 Elm St. in Manchester, 644-5000, monarchshockey.com. At press time the Monarchs were atop their division with a 31-16 win-loss record. In honor of team mascot Max's 10th birthday, there will be a pregame party from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on the plaza. Game tickets start at \$14.75 plus fees.



Wednesday, Feb. 16

The Poetry Society of New Hampshire hosts its monthly open mike at 7 p.m. featuring readings by Charles Pratt and Becky Sakellariou, at Gibson's Bookstore, 27 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsons-bookstore.com. Pratt graduated from and taught at Phillips Exeter Academy; his first collection, *In the Orchard*, was an American Library Association Notable Book for 1986. Sakellariou was nominated for Pushcart Poetry awards in 2002 and 2004; her second book, *Earth Listening*, was published in autumn 2010. Everyone's welcome — go just to listen or step up to the mike and read.

Free: ice cream

Area Friendly's restaurants are raising money for Easter Seals NH. For a \$1 donation, Friendly's will give five Valentine's Day cards redeemable for a free kids cone and a coupon for \$5 off a \$25 purchase, according to a press release. The fundraiser will run through Feb. 13 and support the Easter Seals Camp Friendly's programs. See www.easterseals.com, search "Friendly's" and click on the top link to find a participating Friendly's restaurant.

Cheap: movie

For one day only, on Sunday, Feb. 13, Red River Theatres, 11 S. Main St. in Concord, 224-4600, will show *Moonstruck* (PG, 102 min., 1987), the romantic comedy for which Cher won a best actress Oscar and Olympia Dukakis won best supporting actress. Show times are 3 and 5:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$7.50 at www.redrivertheatres.org. In addition, the Barley House (132 N. Main St., Concord) will offer 15 percent off a meal on Feb. 12 or Feb. 14 with a valid *Moonstruck* ticket.

Splurge: four-course dinner

On Friday, Feb. 25, Liz Barbour's Creative Feast, www.thecreativefeast.com, offers a class on "Feasting on Soups and Stews" from 6 to 9 p.m. at Granite State Cabinetry, 384 Route 101 in Bedford, 472-4090. Participants will learn how to create (and then eat) a beef and vegetable stew, a rich bean soup, a light and healthy chowder, and a dessert soup. In addition to traditional stovetop cooking methods, the class will explore using a pressure cooker and a crock pot. Cost is \$70 and includes the four-course meal and a wine-tasting as well as a recipe booklet.

Hippo

BEST OF 2011

Time to tell us about your favorite stuff! It's...

HIPPO'S BEST OF 2011 READERS' POLL!

TUESDAY, FEB. 1, THROUGH MONDAY, FEB. 28...

you can vote for your favorites in southern New Hampshire.
Go online to www.hippopress.com to vote for the best
restaurants, best night spots, best in beauty and so much more.

VOTE in our readers' poll during the month of
February. We'll tally the votes and announce in March
who you've decided is the best at what they do.

These awards are all about YOUR favorites. What do you
love about living in southern New Hampshire? Who makes
living here special for you?

Vote online starting at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 1.
The ballot will be available by clicking on the "Best of
2011" link at www.hippopress.com. Online ballots must
be completed by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 28. Fill
out at least 15 categories to have your vote counted.

No national chains please—this is about the people and
the places that make southern New Hampshire unique.

Help make your favorite restaurant, hair stylist or
community event award-winning! Vote in the one and
only Hippo's Best of 2011 Readers' Poll!



Hippo
BEST OF
2010

Ballots will not be printed in the Hippo. A very limited number of printed ballots will be available from the Hippo by mailing your first and last name and your full address to "Best of 2011 Ballot Request, The Hippo, 49 Hollis St., Manchester, NH. 03101." A request for ballot must contain full first and last name and only one ballot will be mailed to each address. Ballots must be returned with full first and last name and ballots on the outside envelope. Only one ballot per address will be counted. Ballot requests after Feb. 18 will not be answered. Ballots must be in the Hippo offices by Feb. 28. Doesn't that sound horribly complicated? Just fire up your trusty computer and vote online – it's quicker, easier and fun! Sending out an e-mail or tweet or other social networky thing to get all your buddies to vote for your band or favorite dentist is A-OK (just make sure everybody votes on their own computer as only one vote per computer is counted). Votes are tallied by Hippo and all results are final.

Votes are tallied by Hippo and all results are final.

Drawing it out

Aspects of life expressed through art

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

Sometimes when you're young, life seems like it is out of your control. That is why many teens turn to art, which gives them the power to create.

Jacinda Jackson is an Outreach Therapist. Recently, at a home visit her client showed her his sister's artwork. Jackson was blown away.

"This 18-year-old girl [was] bursting with creativity, passion and the ability to emotionally move me with her art," Jackson wrote via e-mail.

And Jackson knows a thing or two about art. She earned a B.A. in Fine Arts and spent 15 years trying to carve out her niche as an artist. Eventually she went back to school and earned an M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. This combination gives her a unique perspective. Jackson understands the hardships people endure and knows how art can help.

"This girl has had an incredibly tumultuous childhood and the process by which she copes screams from the pages of her sketch-books," Jackson wrote.

The girl is Megan Granger of Nashua. She graduated from Hollis-Brookline High School last spring and is currently looking for a tattoo apprenticeship. She is a talented artist who wears her work on her sleeve — literally. She has tattooed her father and her boyfriend, Peter Nightingale, but she said she enjoys working on herself the most.

"I don't feel as nervous," Granger said. "I think tattooing is a beautiful form of art that is permanent."

Ever since she was young, Granger has enjoyed getting her hands messy. Unfortunately, life can get messy as well. During difficult times, Granger escaped through her art.

"Art was a really big stress-reliever," Granger said. "It made me feel better about myself and what was going on around me."

Granger said when she looks at her work she remembers

moments of her life and what she was feeling and thinking at those times. When asked if that was always a good thing — did she want to remember the bad moments? — she didn't hesitate.

"I always felt better after doing it [a painting]," Granger said. "I got my feelings out and then it was like they became their own thing, separate from me."

Art was a constant companion as she grew up.

"I spent most of my free time with art," Granger said. "The more time I spent, the more fond of it I became. It is the only way I know how to express myself to the best extent."

But what does the art say about this young woman? The first thing that draws your eyes to Granger's work is her use of color.

"I love making things bold that catch your eye," Granger said.

She adores watercolors but likes to experiment in every medium. In fact, she even uses highlighters.

"I use highlighters all the time," said her boyfriend Nightingale, "but it never looks like what she can do."

Yet elements of doubt also seep into the color. For example, Granger loves to burn chunks of her work.

"I like to burn things because you can't control much," Granger said. "It is different every time."

At least she has learned to take her paintings out of her sketchbook, which she carries with her everywhere, before she burns them. She didn't always do this and once almost torched the whole book.

These goofy moments are a reminder that, despite her wisdom, Granger is still young. She is greatly influenced by the music she listens to, and lyrics of her favorite bands, like Bright Eyes and Melpo Mene, often end up in her paintings.

"Conor Oberst [of Bright Eyes] is one of the best writers of all time," said Nightingale, as he and Granger sat at a table in Barnes & Noble.

Besides art classes in high school, Granger is self-taught. She said school is not her thing, which is why she is not pursuing a fine art degree. But she has honed her ability to observe, and her



"You Don't Know" by Megan Granger. Courtesy photo.

favorite subject matters are people and animals — really anything that has facial expressions. She said she usually has an idea but nothing concrete and when she creates a new piece she lets her hand do what it wants and then she goes back and refines it.

"You can't be too scared," Granger said, talking about art but maybe hinting about life. "You can't be afraid to mess up and start over. You can't let your worries stop you from doing what you want to do."

20 Art

Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

ART LISTINGS

Gallery openings and events

• **LEONARD RAGOUZEOS & MICHAEL deMENG** Work will be on exhibit through March 4 at the New England College Gallery, 188 Foster Hill Road, Henniker. There will be a reception on Thurs., Feb. 10, 4-6 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Friday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is free. Call 428-2329 or visit www.nec.edu.
• **DEJA VU** Work of Dee Lessard and Michelle Beliveau will be on display through Feb. 26 at East Colony Fine Art Gallery in Langer Place, 55 South Commercial St., Manchester. Hours are Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Opening reception Sat., Feb. 12, 5-8 p.m. Call 621-7400 or visit www.eastcolony.com.
• **GLASS ARTISANS** will showcase their work on Sat., Feb. 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Peterborough Historical Society, 19 Grove St., Peterborough. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.nhglassmakers.com.
• **JACQUI HAWK** Work will be on display Feb. 12 through March 8 at the Lawrence Library Art Gallery, 15 Main St., Pepperell, Mass. There will be an artist reception on Sat., Feb. 12, noon-2 p.m. Call 978-433-0330 or visit www.lawrencelibrary.org.
• **LOVE IS FOR SQUARES** Multi-

artist exhibit on display at East Colony Fine Art in Langer Place, 55 South Commercial St., Manchester. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Opening reception Sat., Feb. 12, 5-8 p.m. Call 624-8833 or visit www.eastcolony.com.

• **LYNN ADAMS** February artist of the month at Exeter Fine Crafts, 61 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Artist reception Sat., Feb. 12, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Call 778-8282.

• **O VALENTINE ... VALENTINE** Multi-artist exhibition on display through Feb. 26 at the Seacoast Artist Association Gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. There will be an opening reception on Sat., Feb. 12, 2-4 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 778-8856 or visit www.seacoastartist.org.

• **ERICK INGRAHAM** Work will be on display through May 31 at New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St., Route 101A, Milford. Open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be an artist reception on Sun., Feb. 13, 1-3 p.m. Visit www.nhantiquecoop.com or call 673-8499.

In the galleries

• **100 ARTISTS-100 TRIBUTES:** An AIDS Action Project at Artist Proof Studio, Johannesburg" will run

22 Theater

Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com

through Feb. 19 at the McNinch Art Gallery at Southern New Hampshire University, 2500 North River Road, Manchester. Visit www.snhu.edu.

• **ALL SEASONS BIRDS** Bird photographs by Udo Rauter on display through Feb. 19 at the Epsom Public Library, 1606 Dover Road, Epsom. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 736-9920.

• **ART CENTER FACULTY EXHIBITION** on view through March 7 in the Currier Museum of Art's Community Gallery, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Visit www.currier.org or call 669-6144.

• **ART ON A STARRY NIGHT** Multi-artist exhibit on display from through Feb. 25 at the Kimball Jenkins Estate, 266 North Main St., Concord. Call 225-3932 or visit www.kimballjenkins.com.

• **FRANK M. INGALLS** New permanent photography exhibit at the Florence Speare Museum, 5 Abbott St., Nashua. Call 883-0015.

• **GODFREY (JEFF) SLUDER** Work will be on display at the Forest Society's Conservation Center, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 224-9945.

• **HELENE LEVASSEUR** Paintings of local scenery on display through February at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Hours

are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Call 589-4610 or visit www.nashualibrary.org.

• **JACQUI HAWK** Artist's work is on display at Stella Blu Restaurant, 70 East Pearl St., Nashua, 578-5557 through Feb. 20. Her work can also be seen at Salon 263 Fine Art Boutique, 263 Main St., Nashua, 594-9190.

• **JASON SHULKIN** Abstract experimental photography on display through Feb. 28 at The Steez Gallery, 5 West Pearl St., Nashua. Visit www.thesteezgallery.com.

• **LIKENESS AND REFLECTION:** The Allure of Paris and New York. The photographs of Ronald Hurwitz will be on display through March 19 at Alva de Mars Megan Chapel Art Center, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester. Visit www.anselm/chapelart.

• **LOVE, LUST & DESIRE** Multi-artist show through Feb. 12 at McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord. Visit www.mcgowanfineart.com or call 225-2515.

• **MAGICAL MOMENTS** Multi-artist exhibit through Feb. 28 at the Manchester Artists Association Gallery, 1528 Elm St., Manchester. Gallery hours are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Thursday, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Call 785-6437.

• **MEXICAN ART** from Outsiders to Contemporary will be on display

24 Classical

Includes symphony and orchestral performances. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

through March 1 at Colby-Sawyer College, 541 Main St., New London. Special lecture by Prof. Randy Hanson on Tues., Feb. 15, noon-1 p.m. at the Art Gallery. Admission is free. Call 526-3000 or visit www.colby-sawyer.edu/events.

• **MINUMENTAL EXHIBIT** Multi-artist exhibit through Feb. 26 in the French Building at the NH Institute of Art, 148 Concord St., Manchester. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon. Visit www.nhia.edu or call 836-2573.

• **NH ART ASSOCIATION 62nd CURRIER EXHIBITION** will run through March 6 at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Museum hours are Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (free admission 10 a.m.-noon) and the first Thursday of each month, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Visit www.currier.org or call 669-6144.

• **PASTELS** by Nashua artist Pauline Dailey will be on display in the Image Gallery at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, free and open to the public. Call 589-4610.

• **PRINT OF THE YEAR:** What's New in NH Printmaking. Work of 50 printmakers will be on display through April 1 at UNH School of Law, 2 White St., Concord. Call 228-1541.

• **SMALL MOMENTS** Work of Janice Donnelly will be on display

through April 25 at the second-floor gallery at UNH Manchester, 400 Commercial St., Manchester. Visit www.janicedonnelly.com.

• **SUBURBAN MEMORY** Work of artist Cindy Rizza will be on display through May 15 in the first-floor library at UNH Manchester, 400 Commercial St., Manchester. Visit www.cindyrizza.com.

• **SYNTHESISIONS** Work of artist Lynda Schlosberg will be on display through Feb. 14 at the NH Institute of Art, 77 Amherst St., Manchester. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon. Visit www.nhia.edu or call 836-2573.

• **THE ART OF MY NATURE** Work of Ron Plante will be on display through Feb. 19 at the Massabesic Audubon Center, 16 Audubon Way, Auburn. Call 224-9909 or visit www.nhaudubon.org.

• **TINY TOES TO PANTY HOSE:** A Photographic Chronicle of the Daily Life of Women by Betsy Hansen is featured in February at the Wilton Library, 7 Forest Road, Wilton. Call 654-2581.

• **TRANSFORMATION** Photographic work of David MacEachran and Alicia Bergeron on display at Silver Light Gallery, 28 Main St., Suite 2, Goffstown. Visit www.silverhillsstudio.com or call 497-4674.

• **UNKNOWN ARTISTS** Ten relatively unknown artists will showcase



LOCAL COLOR



Work of Erick Ingraham. Courtesy photo.

• **Condo's revival:** According to a recent article in the New York Times, the artist George Condo, who was born in Concord in 1957, made a huge splash in the American art scene in the 1980s. But then Condo moved to Paris for years and was somewhat forgotten until now. His new exhibit "George Condo: Mental States" is being held at the New Museum in New York City. It has been described as Looney Tunes meets Picasso. Younger fans may know Condo as the man who created the artwork for Kanye West's album *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*.

• **Big winners at the Currier:** While every member of the New Hampshire Art Association chosen to have his or her work on display at the Currier Museum is a winner, there are some who stood out over the rest. Allan B. Hall of Brentwood, Ryan Lefebvre of Manchester, Hsiu Norcott of Hollis and Sheli Petersen of

Milford were recognized as some of the best at the NH Art Association 62 Currier Exhibition by Jen Mergel and Dina Deitsch, the two jurors for the show. Petersen's "Turkey Clan" won the Currier Prize for most accomplished submission while the other winners were awarded Juror's Choice Awards. These works, as well about 40 others, can be seen through March 6 at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Visit www.currier.org.

• **Film submissions sought:** The New Hampshire Film and Television Office is accepting submissions for the 2011 New Hampshire High School Short Film Festival, which has been scheduled for Saturday, June 18, at the NH Technical Institute in Concord. Submissions must be postmarked on or before Thursday, March 31. A panel of judges, all of whom are prominent members of the state's film community, will review the submissions and select festival entries. The winning film will be screened on New Hampshire Day at the New Hampshire Film Festival in Portsmouth and at the Somewhat North of Boston Film Festival in Concord later this year. Visit www.nhstudentfilm.com to find guidelines and entry forms.

• **Love and art:** The illustrations and paintings of Erick Ingraham will be on display through May 31 at the Tower Gallery at the New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St., Milford. There will be a special artist reception with champagne and strawberries on Sunday, Feb. 13, from 1 to 3 p.m. Ingraham is a member of the Three Squared Artists Group and says he has always tried to improve the established and explore the untried. Visit www.nhantiquecoop.com or call 673-8499. —Adam Coughlin

their work through Feb. 28 at the Coffee Factory, 55 Crystal Ave., Derry. Call 432-6006.

• **WARM THOUGHTS DURING WINTER'S CHILL** New exhibit of the Hollis Arts Society in February and March at Gallery West Pearl, 100 West Pearl St., Nashua. Call 882-1503.

THEATER LISTINGS

- **The Acting Loft**
670 North Commercial Street, Manchester in the Jefferson Mill Building. 666-5999, actingloft.org
- **Actorsingers**
219 Lake St., Nashua, 889-9691, actorsingers.org
- **Adams Memorial Opera House**
29 W. Broadway, Derry, 437-0505, derryarts.org
- **Amato Family Center for the Performing Arts at Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls Club**
56 Mont Vernon St., Milford, 672-1002 ext. 2, svbge.com
- **Andy's Summer Playhouse**
Wilton, 654-2613, andyssummerplayhouse.org
- **Anselmian Abbey Players**
Dana Center, 641-7700
- **Bedford Off Broadway**
Meetinghouse Rd, Bedford, 557-1805, bedfordoffbroadway.com
- **Bedford Town Hall**
70 Bedford Center Rd., Bedford
- **Bedford Youth Performing Company**
155 Route 101, Bedford, www.bypc.org, 472-3894.
- **Belle Voci**
bellevoci.org, 848-7986
- **Capitol Center for the Arts**
44 Main St., Concord, 225-1111,

In a gallery near you



Find love in Manchester

"Love is for Squares" is a new exhibit at East Colony Fine Art Gallery in Langer Place, 55 South Commercial St., Manchester. The exhibit is special for Valentine's Day and features 25 artists and their different interpretations of love. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, Feb. 12, 5 to 8 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public. This reception coincides with the opening of "Deju vu," the February featured exhibit of Michelle Beliveau and Dee Lessard. Call 624-8833 or visit www.eastcolony.com. Courtesy photo

ccanh.com

- **Concord Chorale**
224-0770, concordchorale.org
- **Concord City Auditorium**
2 Prince St., Concord, 228-2793, www.theaudi.org
- **Concord Community Players**
224-4905, communityplayersofconcord.org
- **The Dana Center**
100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu
- **The Majestic Theatre**
281 Cartier St., Manchester, 669-7469, majestictheatre.net
- **Manchester Community Music School**
2291 Elm St., 644-4548, mcmusicsschool.org
- **Manchester Community Theatre and Second Stage**

- Professional Co.
698 Beech St., Manchester, 627-8787
- **Milford Area Players**
673-2258, milfordareaplayers.org
- **Muchachos Drum & Bugle Corps**
PO Box 5197, Manchester, 674-7650, www.muchachos.org
- **Music and Drama Company (MADCo.)**
Londonderry, madco.org
- **My Act**
myact.org, 429-3950
- **Nashua Theatre Guild**
PO Box 137, Nashua, 03061, 320-2530, nashuatheatreguild.org
- **New Thalian Players**
newthalianplayers.org, 666-6466
- **Nashua Community College Performing Arts Club (PAC)**

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Curtain Calls

• **Postponed:** Stepping Stone Players' production of *Crimes of the Heart* has been postponed due to the weather. The show was scheduled for Friday, Feb. 11, and Saturday, Feb. 12, at 8 p.m. in Bedford. The show has been postponed until April 29 and April 30. Call 224-1837 or e-mail renee_tyz@hotmail.com.

• **Concord alum to conduct:** John Adams, not America's second president but the Concord High School alum, will conduct the Metropolitan Opera at its first-ever performance of *Nixon in China*. The opera began Feb. 2 but will be shown via HD simulcast on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 1 p.m. at both The Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough, and the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 South Main St., Concord. The Met's production will be staged by renowned director Peter Sellers and stars James Maddelena as Richard Nixon and Robert Brubaker as Mao Tse-tung. The opera is in three acts and is based on Nixon's visit to China in late February 1972. This is Adams' debut as a Met conductor; however, his opera, *Doctor Atomic*, successfully premiered in 2008. Adams, who has won a Pulitzer Prize, began composing when he was 10 and has said in previous interviews he was inspired by New England's rich musical culture. Tickets cost between \$15 and \$26.

• **Sign of the times:** As more and more people use social media and websites like

Wikipedia, the traditional information night for theater companies is changing. Leading the charge are the Actorsingers, who will be holding an information night for their new show, *Guys & Dolls*, online. That's right. On Friday, Feb. 11, at 7 p.m., interested actors should NOT go to Actorsingers Hall because no one will be there. Instead, they should visit the group's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/topic.php?uid=69482739681&topic=16965, which is where more information will be provided. However, the actual auditions will be held in person at the Actorsingers Hall, 219 Lake St., Nashua, on Sunday, Feb. 20, from 6 to 10 p.m. and Monday, Feb. 21, from 7 to 10 p.m. For people without Facebook accounts, it doesn't matter because the discussion can be viewed regardless. However, to participate an account is needed. Those at Actorsingers are interested to see how the process turns out, as it has never been tried before. E-mail secretary@actorsingers.org.

• **In transition:** The Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass., 978-654-4678, www.merrimackrep.org, will be using AlbertHall&Associates, a company that specializes in providing support for arts and entertainment companies, to conduct a nationwide search for a new executive director. This position is becoming available as current executive director Tom Parrish is leaving at the end of February to take a similar position in New York. General Manager Edgar Cyrus will assume the role of interim managing director while the search process continues. The search is expected to last four to six months. —Adam Coughlin

505 Amherst St., Nashua,
428-3544

• **The Palace Theatre**
80 Hanover St., Manchester,
668-5588, palacetheatre.org

• **Peacock Players**
14 Court St., Nashua, 886-7000,
peacockplayers.org

• **Profile Chorus**
profilechorus.org

• **School of Theater Arts**
at The Amato Center for
Performing Arts
56 Mont Vernon St., Milford,
672-1002 ext. 20

• **Seacoast Repertory Theatre**
125 Bow St., Portsmouth,
433-4472

• **SNHU Drama Club**
2500 North River Rd., Hooksett

• **Stage One Productions**
Dinner Theatre at the
Chateau Restaurant
201 Hanover St., Manchester
669-5511, stageoneprod.com

• **Yellow Taxi Productions**
yellowtaxiproductions.org

• **THE DINING ROOM** will be performed through Feb. 13 at the Garrison Players Arts Center, Route 4, Rollinsford. Show times are at 8 p.m. except Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 (\$10 for students) Call 1-800-838-3006 or visit garrisonplayers.org.

• **ORPHANS** will be performed through Feb. 27 at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. Show times are 2, 7:30 and 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$50 to \$150. Call 433-4472 or visit seacoastrep.org.

• **THE EXCEPTIONALS** will be performed Feb. 10 through March 6 at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass. Show times are 2, 4, 7, 7:30 and 8 p.m. Tickets begin at \$25. Call 978-654-4678 or visit www.merrimackrep.org.

• **SKIMMER AND BUDGE** will be performed on Thurs., Feb. 10, and Sat., Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 13, at

2 p.m. at the Jewish Federation of NH theater, 698 Beech St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$10 (\$8 for seniors, \$5 for kids 16 and under). Call 800-838-3006 or visit mctp.info.

• **ALL SHOOK UP** will be performed on Fri., Feb. 11, and Sat., Feb. 12, at 7:30 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 12, at 2 p.m., at the performing arts auditorium at the Derryfield School, 2108 River Road, Manchester. Tickets cost \$12. Visit www.etix.com.

• **ALMOST, MAINE** will be performed on Fri., Feb. 11, and Sat., Feb. 12, at 8 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 13, at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets cost \$14-\$17. Visit www.communityplayersofconcord.org or call 224-4905.

• **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.** will be performed Feb. 11 through Feb. 20 at the Acting Loft in the Jefferson Mill Building, 670 Commercial St., Manchester. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 (\$8 for age 12 and under). Call 666-5999 or e-mail chris@actingloft.org.

• **CRIMES OF THE HEART** will be performed on Fri., Feb. 11, and Sat., Feb. 12, at the Bedford Olde Town Hall, 3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford. Tickets cost \$12 (\$10 for seniors and students). Call 224-1837 or visit www.steppingstoneplayers.webs.com.

• **DANCE WEEK** Ailey II will perform on Fri., Feb. 11, at 8 p.m. at the Colonial Theater, 95 Main St., Keene, and Philadanco will perform on Tues., Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m. at Keene State College's Redfern Arts Center, 229 Main St., Keene. Tickets for Ailey II cost \$25-\$39 and tickets for Philadanco cost \$10-\$26. Prime tickets to both performances cost \$50. Call 352-2033 or visit www.thecolonial.org or call 358-2168 or visit www.keene.edu/racbp.

• **THE PREMIERE SERIES**

STAGED READINGS Performances will be held at Keene State College, 541 Main St., Keene at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. Shows are *Memoires are What?* on Fri., Feb. 11, and Sat., Feb. 12; *Haze* on Fri., Feb. 18, and Sat., Feb. 19; *Toasting the Tortoise* on Fri., Feb. 25, and Sat., Feb. 26, and *Succession* on Thurs., March 3, and Fri., March 4. Call 358-2162 or visit www.keene.edu/racbp.

• **LOVE, WHAT'S YOUR PERSPECTIVE** will be performed Fri., Feb. 11, and Sat., Feb. 12, at 8 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 13 at 2 p.m. at The Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$14 (\$12 for students and seniors). Call 436-8123 or visit www.playersring.org.

• **WAITING FOR GODOT** will be performed on Fri., Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center, Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester. Tickets cost \$29.50 (discounts for senior citizens and students). Call 641-7700 or e-mail dana@anselm.edu.

• **OUR TOWN** will be performed on Fridays, Feb. 11 & Feb. 18, at 7 p.m., Saturdays, Feb. 12 & Feb. 19, at 2 & 7 p.m. and Sundays, Feb. 12 & Feb. 20, at 2 p.m. at the Janice B. Streeter Theater at 14 Court St., Nashua. Call 886-7000 or visit www.peacockplayers.org.

• **NIXON IN CHINA** HD broadcast on Sat., Feb. 12, at 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost \$25 (\$20 for students). Call 924-7585 or visit www.peterboroughplayers.org.

• **NIXON IN CHINA** HD broadcast will be held on Sat., Feb. 12, at 1 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 South Main St., Concord. Tickets cost \$26 (\$22 for seniors, \$15 for students). Call 225-1111 or visit www.ccanh.com.

• **WAY DA GO DAD** Will be performed on Saturdays, Feb. 12 & 19,



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at 11 a.m. and Sundays, Feb. 12 & 20, at noon at the Garrison Players Arts Center, Route 4, Rollinsford. Tickets cost \$8. Call 516-4919 or visit www.garrisonplayers.org.
• **NEW YORK THEATRE BALLET** will perform Alice-in-Wonderland Folies and Celebrating the Masters on Wed., Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Spotlight Café in the Capitol Center for the Arts. The performance is free but tickets are required. Visit ccanh.com or call 225-1111.

Auditions/workshops
• **GUYS & DOLLS** online information night Fri., Feb. 11, at 7 p.m. Auditions will be held Sun., Feb. 20, 6-10 p.m. and Mon., Feb. 21, 7-10 p.m. at the Actorsingers Hall, 219 Lake St., Nashua. E-mail secretary@actorsingers.org.
• **THE MUSIC MAN** auditions will be held Sat., Feb. 12, at the Leddy Center for the Performing Arts, 38C Ladd's Lane, Epping. All parts are open and include Harold Hill, Marion Paroo, Mrs. Paroo, Marcellus, Barbershop Quartet, Winthrop, Tommy, Zaneta, Amaryllis, Mayor of Rivercity, 8 boys, ages 6-15, 8 girls ages 6-15, men and women of Rivercity. Call 679-2781 to schedule a time.
• **THE TEMPEST** auditions will be held on Sat., Feb. 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Visitors Center at Strawberry Banke, 14 Hancock St., Portsmouth. All parts are currently opened. Monologues are not needed. Movement auditions will be held Sun., Feb. 12, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Sole City Dance Studio on the 2nd floor of the Rochester Community Center, 150 Wakefield St., Suite 15, Rochester. E-mail jacquelynbenenson@gmail.com.
• **HARVEY** auditions will be held on Tues., Feb. 15, and Wed., Feb.

On stage



Concord turns into Maine

The Community Players of Concord will perform *Almost, Maine*, a romantic comedy written by playwright John Cariani, who may attend the performance if his schedule permits. Performances are scheduled for Friday, Feb. 11, and Saturday, Feb. 12, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. The play has been performed by more than 600 companies in North America and was the most-produced play in high schools in 2010. *Almost, Maine* takes a deep look at the residents of northern, northern Maine. Tickets cost \$17 and \$14 for seniors and students. Call 224-4905 or visit www.communityplayersofconcord.org. *Almost, Maine*. Courtesy photo.

16, 6-9 p.m. at the Community Players Studio, 435 Josiah Bartlett Road, Concord. Callbacks, if necessary, will be on Thurs., Feb. 17. You are encouraged to prepare a brief (2-minute) comedic monologue. E-mail Director Gary Locke at GSL24fps@yahoo.com.

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

• **A VALENTINE HIT PARADE** will be performed on Thurs., Feb. 10, 12:10-12:50 p.m. at the Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 228-1196 or visit www.ccmusicschool.org.
• **FANFARE 2011** Nashua Symphony Orchestra fundraiser will be held Fri., Feb. 11, at the Crowne Plaza, 2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua. The event will feature the NSO's Little Big Band and an auction. Tickets cost \$75. Call 595-9156.

• **VIOLIN STUDENTS** will perform on Fri., Feb. 11, and Thurs., Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. at the Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord. The concerts are free and open to the public. Call 228-1196 or visit www.ccmusicschool.org.
• **PIANO RECITAL** will be held on Fri., Feb. 11, at 7 p.m. at the Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord. The concerts are free and open to the public. Call 228-1196 or visit www.ccmusicschool.org.
• **SOME ENCHANTED EVENING** Women Singing Out! will perform on Sat., Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. at the Exeter Town Hall, 7 Front St., Exeter. Tickets cost \$25. They will also perform on Sun., Feb. 13, at 3 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 1035 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$15 (\$12 for seniors and students). Visit www.womensingingout.org or call 622-0907.

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CLASSICAL

Resonance for renovations

Concert to support Hunt Memorial Building

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopres.com

This Valentine's Day, a local chamber group is dedicating songs of love to support the renovation of a historic building.

Resonance, a Nashua chamber group, traditionally plays a Valentine's Day concert at the Hunt Memorial Building. But the Hunt, which was built in 1903, closed down Feb. 1 for major renovations and won't be re-opened until the end of the summer, according to Judith Carlson, secretary of the Friends of the Hunt Memorial Building, a non-profit group formed last year.

Hearing that the building was undergoing work, Sue Hurwitz, a founding member of Resonance, wanted to help. Resonance was able to schedule its yearly concert for Sunday, Feb. 20, at 4 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 58 Lowell St., Nashua, and a majority of proceeds from the concert will go to the Hunt Memorial Building, Carlson said.

"It is a great way to keep the momentum of the building going even while it is closed down," Carlson said.

What is it about this building that means so much to so many? Perhaps it is the history. The building was designed by architect and New Hampshire native Ralph Adams Cram and built from a \$50,000 grant from the Hunt family, according to the Nashua Library website. The Hunt Memorial Building was opened to the public in 1903 and served as Nashua's library until 1971, when a more modern library was built on Court Street. It was also in 1971 that the Hunt Memorial Building was placed on the National Register of Historic Buildings. At this same time, the building started to be used by the Nashua School Department, which modified room sizes and installed heating systems, according to Carlson.

But in 1991 the school district moved out and the building was then left unused for several years. A restoration committee was ultimately formed, and the city, which still owns the building, recently allocated close to \$1 million for repairs, according to Carlson. Those repairs are currently under way.

When the Hunt Memorial Building is finished, Carlson said, it will no longer be lying dormant — it will become a vibrant community cultural center. This has long been on the wish list of anyone involved with the arts in Nashua. Carlson said there would be music and art programs featuring local artists. She also hoped there would be numerous free pro-



Members of Resonance. Courtesy photo.

grams as well as ongoing fundraisers to keep the building running smoothly.

Carlson said the rooms in the Hunt Memorial Building would also be returned to their original size and would be used for offices, most likely by non-profit organizations.

Lastly, Carlson said the building is a romantic place for a wedding reception and it is equipped with a catering kitchen, so once it is renovated she would push to have more weddings, meetings and gatherings in the Hunt Memorial Building.

Such hope, tied with its historic significance, is what inspired Resonance to sing on behalf of the Hunt Memorial Building. The group, which has been playing together for close to a decade, is made up of five musicians, but personal commitments often mean the dynamic changes depending on the concert. The Feb. 20 concert, "Romance in the Air," will showcase pianists Lynne Wilby and Hurwitz and Kim Farah on the flute. They will perform a variety of romantic tunes including the Claude Bolling Suite with flute and piano and Sonatina by Cecile Chaminade.

"They do lovely music," said Carlson, who has seen Resonance in concert. "They have quite the following in the area and a lot of people are really looking forward to the concert."

While they've performed frequently in Nashua, Resonance's music has reached many ears outside the Gate City. They have played at the Museum of Fine Art in Boston and the Seacoast Academy of Music, not to mention other smaller venues across New England.

Romance in the Air

When: Sunday, Feb. 20, at 4 p.m.

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church, 58 Lowell St., Nashua

Tickets: Cost \$15 (\$12 for seniors)

Info: Call 883-8093 or e-mail jcarlson@robcar.mv.com.

• **SINGING VALENTINES** The Concord Choral is offering Singing Valentines, at home, at work, or any other place desired from Sat., Feb. 12, through Mon., Feb. 14. For \$75 one song will be performed, for \$100 two songs will be sung. Call Deb at 731-2244 or visit concordchorale.org.

• **WILLIAM CHAPMAN NYAHO** The pianist will perform on Sun., Feb. 13, at 2 p.m. at Brewster Academy's Anderson Hall, 205 S. Main St., Wolfeboro. Tickets cost \$20. Call 569-2151 or visit www.wfriendsofmusic.org.

• **THE NEW ENGLAND TENORS** will perform a dinner show on Sun., Feb. 13, 4-7 p.m. at the Ashworth by the Sea Ballroom, 295 Ocean Boulevard, Hampton. Tickets cost \$45, \$60 or \$85. Visit www.newenglandtenors.com or call 978-476-6053.

• **THE MERRIMACK CHORUS** meets Sundays 7-9 p.m. at the John O'Leary Adult Community Center, 4 Church St., Merrimack. Call Choral Director Jamie Saucier at 828-6739. Next meeting Sun., Feb. 13.

• **MUSICIANS OF WALL STREET** Emily Jaworski and Calvin Herst will perform on Fri., Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Concord Community Music School's Recital Hall, 23 Wall St., Concord. Tickets cost \$12 (\$10 for students and seniors). Call 228-1196.

• **CROSSING THE ENGLISH CHANNEL** Nashua Chamber Orchestra will perform on Sat., Feb. 19, in Daniel Webster College's Collings Auditorium, 20 University Drive, Nashua, and on Sun., Feb. 20, at 3 p.m. in the Milford Town Hall on the Milford Oval. Tickets cost \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors, \$10 for students. Call 566-6024 or visit www.nco-music.org.

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Sun., March 20, 7:30pm

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Thurs., March 24, 7:30pm

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Spring Awakening
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From yoga to pilates, cooking to languages to activities for the kids, Hippo's weekly listing offers a rundown of all area events and classes. Get your program listed by sending information to listings@hippopress.com at least three weeks before the event.

February vacation fun

Camps and activities so the kids don't get bored

By Tori Loubier
tloubier@hippopress.com

Realizing how close together Christmas break and February vacation really makes you wish you were a kid again. Daydream for a minute about the good old days of having weeks off from the real world.

Now snap back to reality, because you *do* have to work, and it's time to sign the kids up for camps and activities on their week off.

Lucky for them, and you, there are some great local options this February.

- **The Acting Loft**, 516 Pine St., Manchester is hosting a February Vacation Musical Theatre Camp from Mon., Feb. 21 to Fri., Feb. 25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Campers will take classes in singing, acting, dancing and improv, learn more about classic and contemporary Broadway musicals and rehearse their final musical production of Aesop's Fables. The camp will culminate with a staged musical production on Friday at 6 p.m. For ages 6-15. Tuition for the full week including the production is \$185. Students are required to bring non-perishable, nut-free lunch daily. To enroll call 666-5999 or visit www.actingleft.org.

For those who love the outdoors but don't want to hit the slopes, **Beaver Brook Environmental Center** is offering various activities from Feb. 28 through March 6 for children who get bored easily during a week off from school. These are individual activities rather than a traditional day camp. Held at Maple Hill Farm in Hollis, activities include a Winter Warm Up for kindergartners with a scavenger hunt, Winter Olympics for third- and fourth-graders, and a backyard maple sugaring session called Tap Your Trees. Call 465-7787.

The **Concord Family YMCA** offers Kydscamp, a day camp Monday, Feb. 21, through Friday, Feb. 25, daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Children in grades 1 through 5 can sign up to participate in the whole week or individual days. Monday will feature a Star Wars theme, Tuesday includes a trip to Red River Theatres, Wednesday is indoor rock climbing, Thursday brings the kids sledding at White Park, and the week concludes on Friday with a Wii tournament. For kids on vacation Monday, Feb. 28, through Friday, March 4, Kydscamp will include the same activities on different days, and devote Wednesday to tubing at McIntyre Ski Area. Kydscamp is \$188 for the full week, or \$55 per day, with scholarships available. The Concord Y is located at 15 North State St., Concord, and can

be reached at concordymca.org or by calling 228-9622 ext. 145.

Children in grades 3, 4 and 5 can enjoy February vacation day trips offered by **Concord Recreation Department**. The Rec department brings kids on daycations to sites such as Vertical Dreams, the Boston Museum of Science and Franklin Park Zoo during the week of Feb. 28 through March 4. Sign up for one trip or the whole week. Visit www.concordnh.gov/recreation or call 225-8690.

The **Currier Museum of Art** is offering Winter Wonderland, an art-making February school vacation camp for kids ages 5 to 14, Monday, Feb. 21 through Fri., Feb. 25. Campers can choose to attend for a full day (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) or a half day (9 a.m.-noon). Camp activities include exploring winter in New England by painting a polar bear in a snowstorm, depicting a frigid climate like Impressionists did in their winter scenes as well as looking at the works of Charles Burchfield and Paul Sample. Full day tuition \$260, half day tuition \$150. After camp care available from 3-4 p.m. for an additional \$25. The Currier is also offering Portfolio Prep: Drawing Big, a teen art intensives camp during the same week, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. daily. Teens (ages 14-18) will work from still-life, interior and figurative subject matter, and will be challenged to draw "big" incorporating issues of space, form, texture and light into the framework of large drawings. \$250 per person. Register by calling 669-6144 x122, register online at www.currier.org, or visit the Art Center at 180 Pearl St., Manchester.

Sports, sports, sports is all **In the Net Sports Academy** can think of, and they are showing off their love of sports the week of Feb. 22-25 in full-day (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and half-day (9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) sessions. The Sports Academy offers soccer, lacrosse, volleyball, golf, tennis, running, speed/strength, baseball, softball, skateboarding and football indoor camps for kids who want to be active. Some camps are held at the Derry SportZone, some at the Hampshire Dome in Milford and some in Tyngsboro, Mass. Visit www.inthenetsport-sacademy.com or call 429-0592.

The **Palace Theatre**, 80 Hanover St. in Manchester, has a camp for Feb. 21 through Feb. The camp runs daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an evening production at the end of the week. The camp is open to grades 2 to 8 and includes instruction in singing, dancing, set design, acting and more. February's theme is "Masquerade Party."

If your kids can't live without theater, the **Peacock Players in Nashua** is offering Backstage

Pass, a vacation week workshop from Feb. 28 through March 4. The workshop gives students a chance to become playwrights, costume designers and set designers, and at the end of the week they give a reading of their play and a design presentation for friends and family. Call 889-2330.

Science buffs can revel in all that the **Seacoast Science Center** has to offer during its two vacation weeks, Feb. 21 through Feb. 25 and Feb. 28 through March 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Science Center, located at 570 Ocean Blvd. in Rye, features Seaside Safari Winter Vacation, including science experiments, hands-on visits with seaside creatures and trekking the trails of Odi-orne Pointe State Park. For kids in kindergarten through fifth grade, Treks 4 Tots runs from 9 a.m. to noon, exploring nature, winter trees and animals, snow and animal tracks. Visit www.seacoastsciencecenter.org or call 436-8043.

For art-lovers, the **Sharon Arts Center** in Peterborough is offering camp from Feb. 21 through Feb. 25 called Art in Motion. For children ages 7 through 12, this camp includes the creation of art machines, two- and three-dimensional art projects and an art factory. Art in Motion can be taken as a morning-only or full-day program. Call 924-7256.

For kids in grades 4 through 8 with an open mind looking to expand their knowledge of video-making, Concord Recreation is hosting a **TV Video Camp**. From Feb. 28 through March 4, each day from 12:30 to 5 p.m., kids can learn the basics of video production, including how to operate equipment in a studio, in the field and in the editing room. At the end of the week, campers will create a program to run on Channel 22. Visit www.concordnh.gov/recreation or call 225-8690.

For a week filled with fun physical activities, bring the kids to the **Workout Club and Wellness Center** at 18 Orchard View Drive in Londonderry, Feb. 21 through Feb. 25. Daily activities vary but are all focused on fitness, with a small 10:1 ratio of children to staff. Contact Carolyn Crocco, WCWC children's director, at 434-6565.

YMCA Camp Lincoln in Kingston, is a daily camp giving kids the ability to spend their vacation skiing at Pats Peak and Ragged Mountain. If needed, the camp offers lessons taught by ski school instructors at each mountain. Camp Lincoln will hold its camp Feb. 21-25 and Feb. 28-March 4 and can be reached at 642-3361.

Have a camp not listed here? Let us know at tloubier@hippopress.com.

CHILDREN & TEENS

Events

- **VALENTINE EXHIBIT** Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St., Dover, now through Feb. 28, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Local historian, photographer and nationally known collector of photographica, Thom Hindle, will share a collection of camera-related Valentine's Day cards, some dating back to the early 1900s. Many of the cards have illustrations of children taking pictures of their valentines with old-fashioned box cameras. Mass production of cards began as early as 1800. In 1840, the first mechanical valentines were introduced. By pulling a tab, a figure or object on the card could be made

to move. Some had elaborate honeycomb "pop-outs" or various other 3-D features. Regular admission applies. Call 742-2002.- **CHOCOLATE PARTY** Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester, Thurs., Feb. 10, at 4 p.m. For grades 3-5. Refreshments served. Call 624-6550 ext. 335.
- **SCRABBLE GAME AFTERNOON** Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester, Sat., Feb. 12, 2-4 p.m. Drop in to play your favorite board games. Families are welcome. Call 624-6550 ext. 335.
- **VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY** West Manchester Community Library, 76 Main St., Manchester, Sat., Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. Children can enjoy treats and make some-

thing special to give to a loved one for Valentine's Day. Register by calling 624-6560 or visit www.manchester.lib.nh.us.- **CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY** Concord Public Library auditorium, 45 Green St., Concord, Sat., Feb. 12, at 1 p.m. Free for families. Call 225-8670.
- **BASEBALL PITCHING CLINIC** NH Sportszone, Derry, Sun., Feb. 13, 9-11 a.m. For ages 9 to 18. Instruction on proper mechanics will be given by Mike Jackson, pitching instructor, and each participant will receive an evaluation by professional pitcher Kyle Jackson of the Boston Red Sox or Nick Asselin of the NY Yankees. Space is limited; \$50 per person. E-mail

teamnhbaseball@comcast.net or call 459-5704.- **KIDS KOVE KIDS CONCERT** O'Leary Community Center, Merrimack, Sun., Feb. 13, at 2 p.m. The concert will feature music by Steve Blunt, who performs the song "Goin' to the Playground" inspired by Kids' Kove. Magicians will perform and face-painting will be available. Pizza served at 3 p.m. Proceeds go to the Kids' Kove Revitalization Project, to build a playground for children of Merrimack. \$2 per child, \$4 per adult. Call 424-2168 or e-mail pgiacapuzzi@gmail.com.
- **FAMILY MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION** Children's Museum of NH, 6 Washington St., Dover, Sunday, Feb. 13,

Kiddie Pool

Family fun this weekend

Kids cook

Kids can compete to become the **winter top chef** at the Center for Health Promotion, 279 Pleasant St., Concord on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Join Traci and Michael for a morning of fun where children will make treats and bring home the recipes, including a Sheepish Love Sandwich, Fairy Berries, Hummingbird Nests, Stuffed Cucumber Cups. Call 230-7300.

Valentine action

• What better time to discuss your book crush than Valentine's weekend? Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua Road, Milford, is hosting a **teen book crush party** on Friday, Feb. 11, at 3 p.m. in the Keyes meeting room. Bring your favorite book or meet some new ones during a speed dating round. Play matchmaker for your friends. There will be chocolate. Visit www.wadleighlibrary.org or call 673-2408.

• Families will enjoy the **Valentine's Day party** at the West Manchester Community Library, 76 Main St., Manchester on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. Taste yummy treats and make something special

to give to a loved one for Valentine's Day. Call 624-6560 or visit www.manchester.lib.nh.us.

Fun on ice

• Take the family to **public skating** at the JFK Coliseum on Beech Street in Manchester, Saturday, Feb. 12, from 2 to 4 p.m. or Sunday, Feb. 13, from 2:15 to 4:15 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students. Skate rentals are available for \$5 a pair.

• The skate house at White Park in Concord is also open for **skating** on Fridays from 6 to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. Rentals are \$2.

• Any day this weekend you can catch the **Manchester Monarchs** at the Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St., Manchester: Friday, Feb. 11, at 7 p.m. vs. Portland Pirates; Saturday, Feb. 12, at 8 p.m. vs. Bridgeport Sound Tigers; and Sunday, Feb. 13, at 3 p.m. vs. Springfield Falcons. Call 644-5000 or visit www.monarchshockey.com.

Game day

• Kids can drop in to **Scrabble game afternoon** at the

Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester, Saturday, Feb. 12, from 2 to 4 p.m. Play favorite board games. Families are welcome. Call 624-6550 ext. 335.

Music, magic, mardi gras

• Go to the family **Mardi Gras** celebration at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St., Dover, on Sunday, Feb. 13, from noon to 5 p.m. for some Cajun music performances by the Fiddling Thomsons, plus Mardi Gras mask-making and New Orleans treats. Festivities are included with paid admission. Call 742-2002.

• The Kids' Kove concert at the O'Leary Community Center in Merrimack on Sunday, Feb. 13, at 2 p.m. will feature music by **Steve Blunt**, who performs the song "Goin' to the Playground" inspired by Kids' Kove. Magicians will perform and face-painting will be available. Pizza will be served at 3 p.m. Proceeds go to the Kids' Kove Revitalization Project to build a playground for children of Merrimack. \$2 per child, \$4 per adult. Call 424-2168 or e-mail pgiacapuzzi@gmail.com.

noon-5 p.m. Includes live Cajun music performances by the Fiddling Thomsons, Mardi Gras mask-making, New Orleans treats to sample and other activities. Festivities are included with paid admission. Call 742-2002.

• **MAGIC TREE HOUSE** Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Wed., Feb. 16, at 4 p.m. Play games, make crafts and listen to stories while on an adventure with Jack and Annie. For children in grades K-3. Registration is recommended. Call 624-6550 ext. 345.

DANCE

• **Arthur Murray Dance Studio**
99 Elm St., Manchester,
624-6857, learntodancetoday.com
• **Bliss Healing Arts Center LLC**
250 Commercial St. # 2007, 624-0080, blisshealing.com
• **Dance International Studio**
83 Hanover St., Manchester,
858-0162, importers-exporters.com/DIS.htm
• **Kathy Blake Dance Studios**
3 Northern Blvd. in Amherst,
673-3978, kathyblakedancesstudios.com
• **Krystal Ballroom Dance Studio**
352 S. Broadway, Salem,
870-9350, krystalballroom.com
• **Let's Dance Studio**
5 North Main St., Concord,
228-2800, letsdancenrh.com
• **Mill-A-Round Dance Center**

In the spotlight



Students dress up for a good cause

It's New Hampshire's first annual Pink Tie Ball benefit dinner on Thursday, Feb. 17, from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Executive Court in Manchester. Coordinated by the Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) program at the University of New Hampshire at Manchester and the Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation, the event will raise money for local breast cancer projects. The Pink Tie Ball ticket price is \$50 per person and includes a pink champagne reception, dinner, classical music, guest speakers and a silent auction. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds will fund local breast cancer projects in New Hampshire and 25 percent of the proceeds will fund breast cancer research. Individuals interested in attending the Pink Tie Ball may contact Professor Kelly Kilcrease at 641-4186 or e-mail kelly.kilcrease@unh.edu.

250 Commercial St., Manchester,
641-3880, millaround.com
• **N-Step Dance Center**
2626 Brown Ave Manchester, 03103
603-641-6787 nstepdance.com
• **Paper Moon Dance Center**
515 DW Hwy., Merrimack,
429-1100, papermoondance.com
• **Queen City Ballroom**
21 Dow St., Manchester, 622-1500, queencityballroomnh.com
• **Royal Palace Dance Studio**
167 Elm St., Manchester, 621-

9119, royalpalacedance.com
• **Senior Activity Center**
70 Temple St., Nashua, 889-6155
• **Steppin' Out Dance Studio**
1201 Westford St., Lowell,
978-452-1111, steppinoutdance-lowell.com
• **Folk Classes and Dance**
• **ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE**
Presidential Oaks, 200 Pleasant St.,
Concord, Sunday, Feb. 13, 5:30-7:45 p.m. Rich Jackson leads the dances

Continued on page 29

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Find out why so many Catholics are returning! You'll meet people just like yourself, who came home but left the baggage behind.

Curious? Give us a call or just drop by at 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 24th in our parish center.
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603-882-7793

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LIVE FREE OR SHOP

Shopping made easy

There is, of course, an app for that

By Tori Loubier
tloubier@hippopress.com

If you type "leather boots" into TheFind, it will tell you where you can find every type of leather boot in your area and online, help you compare prices, and show you any discounts or sales. If you like your friend's hand lotion and want to buy your own, you can scan the lotion's barcode using ShopSavvy and instantly find the nearest store where you can buy it and the price. With ShopKick, you can enter your location and instantly find out what stores near you are offering coupons on specific items.

These are all mobile applications that can be downloaded free on your smart phone and they represent the new face of shopping — a world filled with exciting savings, lightning-fast deals and ridiculously freaky help finding exactly what you're looking for.

And it's not just big-name stores or apps; local corporations like the Tanger Outlets in Tilton and Kittery, Maine, are involved as well. Despite New Hampshire's slower-than-a-snail fashion scene, Tanger is upping the ante with forward-thinking shopping incentives.

"We stepped into the social media network a few years ago, but we have expanded our horizons this year," said Eric Proulx, general manager at the Tilton Tanger Outlets. "So many people are embracing digital programming, and we need to be a part of that evolution."

The Tanger Outlets recently introduced their own version of a mobile shopping app. After you download it to your smart phone, the app will list Tanger's 33 centers across 22 states nationwide and then customize deals based on your current location or your favorite center. In addition, the app will show hours, directions, store directories, locations, etc., Proulx said.

Along with coupons and savings, the app has other cool features, like letting you drop a pin onto the satellite map to remember where you parked (why has it taken so long for that to happen!?). You can also create a wish list while walking through the stores, which you can then send to friends or family members.

Proulx looks forward to eventually adding the Outlet's entire coupon book to the app. "This is paving the way for a paperless environment," he said.

Though younger generations are likely to take advantage of mobile shopping applications more quickly than older shoppers, Proulx says all hope is not lost: "Yes, social media is for younger demographics, because that's just the way they communicate these days. But if you are part of the baby boomer generation, it's not something you can't learn...."

Tanger's mobile app was introduced two weeks ago and has already had hundreds of thousands of downloads, according to Proulx. Users who download the app now are offered a \$10 gift card to any outlet store for every \$50 spent, which is not offered to the general public.

With so many shopping apps to choose from, how do you pick which one to use? Tanger's mobile app is great for locating deals and info at whichever Outlet you are at, but TheFind, ShopSavvy and ShopKick are better for mall trips, as well as showing you where exactly you can find what you are looking for and the cheapest available.

TheFind can be overwhelming, especially if you live in a city. For example, if you type in "leggings," you will be given a huge list of stores in your area that sell leggings. This can be avoided if you have a list of stores that appeal to you, and then you can search within that list of favorites.

In theory, ShopSavvy is awesome because it happens so often that you use a friend's product and want it for yourself. However, after a few days' use it seems the barcode scanner isn't as accurate or user-friendly as it could be.

I like what ShopKick offers, as the first thing listed on its home screen is 15 percent off a \$25 iTunes card. However, I've already experienced three technical glitches with the app, and when I attempted to use it from home it could not figure out my location.

Bottom line: I have kept TheFind, Tanger mobile and ShopSavvy, but deleted ShopKick. A dual (or trio) approach to shopping, I believe, is my best bet in keeping a slim budget and cute boots in reach.

I implore users to search out their favorite apps, as there are endless amounts to choose from, with newbies added every day depending on which smart phone you have. Appy shopping!

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Treasure hunt

An antiques expert helps you search for buried treasure

Dear Donna,
I work for Karen at Just Like Mom's Bakery in Weare, and she told me that you would be able to help me with this piece I have. I am wondering the value. It is The Old Man in the Mountains and is made by Budweiser (Anheuser-Busch). Could you tell me anything about it? I would really appreciate it.
Christine in Weare

Dear Christine,
The value of this style of stein is not high but the story is interesting.
This Old Man in the Mountains stein is from the late 1970s and would be called a throwaway. This was because it was given to visitors at the Anheuser-Busch factory (the company started in St. Louis, Mo., in the late 1800s) for tasting beer with.
This one is obviously a New Hampshire one, but other states had their own giveaways. This one came in three or four variations and in a few colors. You can still easily find them at antique shops, auctions and flea markets.
About 15 years ago the value on this was in the \$100 range but with the Internet making such items readily available the value today is under \$20. Still not bad for an item that was once given away free to advertise Budweiser.



Anheuser-Busch (Budweiser) items can be very collectible for the older pieces, and even some modern pieces, steins etc. can fetch quite a bit of money. It all depends on the age and the rarity. Some antique pieces can bring into the thousands to collectors.
I hope this was helpful to you, Christine, and if you are looking for any more information on this or any other stein I have a contact, Fred, who specializes in them. He lives here in New Hampshire and can be reached by e-mail at bierkrugsammalar@msn.com.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (www.fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser, an instructor, a licensed auctioneer and a member of the N.H. Antiques Dealers Association. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or e-mail her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

with live music. Beginners and singles welcome. \$8 admission. Call 934-2543 or e-mail nhedcs.org
• **CONTRA DANCE** East Concord Community Center, 18 Eastman St., Concord, Sat., Feb. 19, 8-11 p.m. Beginners, families and singles welcome. \$7 per person. Call 225-4917.
• **AFRICAN DANCE** and drumming workshop taught by Theo Martey on Fridays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Murphy's Gym, 163 Lake Ave., Manchester. The Akwaaba Ensemble features West African drumming and dance. Cost is \$13; purchase a card for \$72 for six weeks. Drums provided if you don't have them. See www.akwaabaensemble.com or call 224-5582.
• **BEGINNERS LINE DANCING** at the Circle 9 Ranch, 39 Windymere Drive, Epsom, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Visit www.circle9ranch.com or call 736-9656.
• **BORDER CITY SQUARES** offers square dance lessons every Mon., 7-9 p.m. First night is free. Dance is held at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 4 Watson St., Nashua. See bordercitysquares.freeservers.com or call Cheryl Imbody at 438-2366.
• **COUPLES DANCE LESSONS** at the Circle 9 Ranch, 39 Windymere Drive, Epsom, Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Visit www.circle9ranch.com or call 736-9656.
• **GREEK FOLK DANCING** Sunday evenings at the St. George Greek Orthodox Community Center in Manchester. Open to everyone. Call 497-4581.
• **HULA ME KE ALOHA II** The Radisson Hotel, Nashua, Sat. & Sun., Feb. 12 & 13. Sat. will be Luau with Hula show, 4-9 p.m. Sunday will have a workshop 10 a.m.-noon to learn an authentic Hawaiian Hula with Hyetti. No experience necessary. Sunday, 1-5 p.m. will be a belly dance, hula, performance art dance

show. Visit http://nhnbda.blogspot.com or call 620-4295.
• **LINE DANCING** on Mondays at the Nashua Activity Center, beginners 4:45-5:45 p.m., improvers 7-8 p.m. Cost is \$50, runs for eight weeks.
• **LINE DANCING** on Wednesdays at Campbell High School (Highlander Way, Litchfield), 7-8 p.m., contact Campbell HS Community Program at 546-0300.
• **LINE DANCING** on Thursdays at the Windham Senior Center (2 North Lowell Road, Windham), 9:45-10:45 a.m., for 4 weeks. Call the Windham Rec. Dept. at 965-1208.
• **LINE DANCING** on Fridays at Nashua YMCA, 7-8 p.m., call 882-2011.
• **LINE DANCING** on Mondays and Thursdays at the Nashua Sr. Center. Absolute Beginners-Beginners and Improver classes offered. Contact CJ at nhgrizzlies@comcast.net for info, times and fee.
• **LINE DANCING LESSONS** at the Mill-a-Round Dance Center. Beginner, easy, intermediate, available on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Cost is \$8. Visit www.millaround.com for specific dates and times.
• **RHYTHM LINE DANCING** at Royal Palace Dance Studio on Tuesdays 6:15-7 p.m. Visit royalpalacedance.com or call 621-9119.
• **SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING** on Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 215 Main St., Nashua (e-mail nash-uased@comcast.net); and second and fourth Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 69 Washington St., Keene (call Bill Schenck, 352-6968). Visit rsedsboston.org for a complete list.
• **SQUARE DANCE FAMILY FUN NIGHTS** hosted by Heel & Toe Square Dance Club at the Cercle

National Club, 550 Rockland Ave., Manchester. Weekly lessons available for a nominal charge through April. Couples, singles, and families are welcome. Call 497-3484 or 497-3414.

MISCELLANEOUS

Pets
• **LOVE YOUR PET DAY** Animal Rescue League of NH, 545 Route 101, Bedford, Sat., Feb. 12, noon-4 p.m. Vendors with pet-themed products will be on hand. Through Feb. 13, the staff is offering half-off adoption fees for any long-term residents of the shelter (any cat that has been there more than three months). Visit www.rescueleague.org.
• **MAKE YOUR BUDDY A BUNNY** Animal Rescue League of NH, 545 Route 101, Bedford, Sat., Feb. 26, noon-5 p.m. This event will feature local rabbit experts who can answer questions on rabbit care and displays of proper rabbit toys and treats. Enjoy the bunny games and meet some adoptable rabbits. All money raised during the event and through the bake sale will be used to help the many rabbits that come through the League's doors each year. Call 472-DOGS or e-mail Danielle2@rescueleague.org.
• **ADOPT A CAT** Animal Rescue League of NH in Bedford is at capacity. Shelter is open Tues. and Thurs., 1-7 p.m.; Fri., Sat. & Sun. noon -5 p.m. Call 472-DOGS.
• **ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE SEEKING VET CARE DONATIONS** Checks can be mailed to ARL-NH, 545 Route 101, Bedford, NH 03110. Donations can be made at www.rescueleague.org. Be sure to include "veterinary care" in the designation line. Call Robin Ahlgren at 472-5714.

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This guy lucked out



Dear Tom and Ray:

I recently drove about a thousand miles without my oil cap. It's a 2005 Toyota Sequoia, and I was off-road for about 10 days at the same time. When I got home, no oil cap! (Human error all the way.) I checked the oil, and it was good all the way to the "full" mark, and there's no oil on top of the engine, or even on the underside of the hood. As I drove, I didn't see any drop in oil pressure or hear any weird mechanical sounds, so I'm wondering what damage (if any) I might have done to the engine, driving all that way without a cap. I am changing the oil and filter today.

Thanks for your answer, and yes, it is the first time I've ever done that, and the last! — Steve

RAY: You are one lucky fellow, Steve. Mostly because of the particular car you own.

TOM: On most cars these days, the oil cap is right on top of one of the valve covers. When the cap is off with the engine running, the oil blasts out of there like the last feeding blasts out of an infant who's been tossed into the air repeatedly by his father.

RAY: You would have noticed that right away, because the oil spews everywhere, including onto the hot exhaust manifold, where it immediately starts to smoke. It's a complete and utter mess. How do we know? We've done it at the shop!

TOM: And if you actually drive around with the cap off on those cars, you easily could lose enough oil to damage the engine. You can lose half of your oil that way in a matter of hours.

RAY: On your vehicle, I believe the oil fill is down between the cylinder heads, which is a less lubricated part of the engine, and it's not where the cam shafts are churning

up the oil and tossing it everywhere. That's why little to no oil was lost.

TOM: And it's unlikely that anything got into the oil fill when you were driving off-road. You'd have to be extremely unlucky to have a piece of debris come up from the road and go precisely into that hole. It'd be like winning a game of quarters at 50 feet.

RAY: Even if anything did get into the oil fill, it either would sit at the bottom of the pan and get drained out during your next oil change, or it would be caught by the oil screen or oil filter.

TOM: So this appears to be your lucky week, Steve. You might want to go out and buy a few lottery tickets.

Dear Tom and Ray:

I travel with a guide dog. When we're in our own car (driven by my husband, not by me or the dog), I have a harness that the seat belt slips through and we buckle the dog in the back seat. However, when I'm riding with someone else, I don't have a harness, and the dog sits in front of me on the floor (I sit in the front passenger seat). My question is: If the air bag goes off, will the

dog be injured? Many thanks for your help/opinions. — Laura

TOM: Not only might the dog be injured by a deploying air bag, Laura, but YOU might be injured too, if the dog is thrown against you.

RAY: Of course, this is total guess-work on my part. I've never been a dog OR had an air bag deployed in my muzzle.

TOM: But putting the dog, unharassed, in the back seat is bad, too. In an accident, the dog can become a projectile. And coming over the front seat, a 75-pound Labrador retriever can snap your neck.

RAY: So there's clearly nothing safer, in your case, than harnessing the dog in the back seat. Even though it involves some inconvenience, I would encourage you to buckle the dog in back, even when you're in someone else's car.

TOM: If the harness you have now is too bulky to take with you, or is attached semipermanently to your own car, have a look online. We found some that are pretty simple and lightweight, so you could carry one in your purse or backpack. And some appear to be light enough that the dog can wear it all day if necessary, and it just clips

onto the seatbelt when you're in the car.

RAY: We don't know of any real testing that's been done with animals and cars with air bags. I'm sure the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration already has its hands full trying to save two-legged knuckleheads like us. But if anyone out there has any real data that can provide a better answer for Laura, please drop us a line via our website, www.cartalk.com.

Why do unmitigated cheapskates like Tom continue to buy nothing but old clunkers? Find out by ordering Tom and Ray's guide "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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GARDENING GUY

Gardener's Latin

You were right, Mrs. Pike



Primula kisoana — a primrose with no English name. Henry Homeyer photo.

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

Mrs. Pike, my high school Latin teacher, tried really hard to make Latin interesting. We even read *Winnie the Pooh* in Latin, but after two years I decided that I had been tortured enough and just said “no” to learning a dead language. Little did I know that later in life I would really learn to appreciate Latin as a way of naming plants that is logical and precise. Anywhere you go in the world, the name of a plant is the same — if you use Latin.

Many gardeners shy away from Latin in the garden as I did in the classroom. But it does make one feel a bit smug knowing that *Rudbeckia* is the botanist's name for black-eyed Susan, and that *Echinacea purpurea* is the name for purple cone flower. And learning a few Latin names this winter will increase your stature in your local garden club.

Let's take a look at how the system of names works. The system we use is called binomial nomenclature. Up until the mid 1700s plant and animals often had long descriptive names that varied from country to country. Then Carl von Linné, a Swedish scientist who also called himself Linnaeus (a Latinized version of Linné) created a simple and consistent system for naming living things, both plants and animals. Each organism was given a genus name and a species name.

Linnaeus used two words for each organism. The first was called the genus (plural = genera), and the second was the species. The genus is capitalized, but the species is not, even if it is derived from a name that is capitalized. So *canadensis*, for example, indicates the plant comes from Canada or northern regions but is not capitalized. Both genus and species names are italicized.

Each genus (with the exception of Ginkgo and maybe a couple of others) includes more than one species. The scientific name of maple, for example, is *Acer* and includes at least 51 species, all with resemblances to each other, primarily in regard to their reproductive parts. When referring to *Acer* species in print, it is customary to abbreviate the name to the first letter after it has been spelled out once (*A. palmatum*, for example). *Acer* spp. refers to all *Acer* species.

Pronunciation of scientific names is easy. Just pronounce all the letters you see as you would in English. (Darn it, as soon as I write that, the flower *Knautia macedonia*, a won-

derful purple long-blooming flower, comes to mind and the “K” is not spoken. But you knew that). And it is better to refer to “scientific” names than Latin names, as some names come from the Greek, place names or names of scientists. If you find a new species, you can name it after yourself.

Some scientific names are the same as the common names. *Clematis*, *Delphinium* and *Hydrangea* come to mind. *Rosa* for rose is pretty close. Many species names give you a clue about the looks or habits of a plant if you know the Latin word. So, for example, a species name of *recumbens* or *prostrata* will indicate a plant that is low-growing. Any tree with *nana* as a species is tiny, like my grandmother, whom we called Nana.

Let's learn a few scientific genus names.

Trees

Acer = maple
Berberis = barberry
Betula = birch
Cornus = dogwood
Fagus = beech
Fraxinus = ash
Juniperus = juniper
Malus = apple
Quercus = oak
Salix = willow

Flowers

Allium = onion, allium
Aster = aster
Dicentra = bleeding heart
Geranium = Crane's bill
Heuchera = Coral bells
Lavendula = lavender
Narcissus = daffodil, narcissus, jonquil
Pennisetum = fountain grass
Salvia = salvia, sage
Solidago = goldenrod

Some of those names you already recognized, or you see their resemblance to English names. Genus names rarely give much of a clue as to the characteristics of a plant unless you know some of the others in the genus. But species names are much better clues. Let's look at a few complete scientific names: *Symphytum rubrum* tells me that something about this plant is red, probably the flowers (they are). *Tagetes erecta* tells me that the plant (a marigold) stands straight up. A plant with the species name *pendula* is a weeping plant, with branches hanging down. A book that translates a few hundred species names is *Gardener's Latin: Discovering the Origins, Lore & Meanings of Botanical Names* by Bill Neal (Algonquin Books, 1992).

There's not too much to do in the garden just now, so go exploring. Get out a book or go online and learn a few scientific names. It's fun, it's easy, and it will keep your brain from atrophying. Not all nice plants have English names, and you wouldn't want to avoid a plant for that, would you? And Mrs. Pike will be proud of me.

Henry Homeyer's website is www.Gardening-Guy.com.



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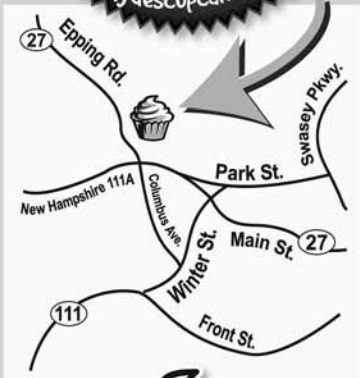
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TECHIE

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By John Andrews
jandrews@hippopress.com

Carbon gets a lot of flak these days. Carbon dioxide is the primary driver of global climate change, sure, but do the two oxygen atoms share any of the blame? Everyone talks about trading “carbon credits” and reducing your “carbon footprint.” Discrimination, it is.

Fact is, when carbon hangs out by itself, it can do some pretty awesome things. Like in graphene.

Graphene is “just” carbon in much the same way diamonds are “just” carbon. There are no other elements mixed in, but the arrangement of carbon atoms gives the substance unique properties. Diamonds, in a cubic lattice structure, are extremely hard, clear and expensive. Graphene has a hexagonal lattice structure, so a sheet of the stuff is only one atom thick.

If you’re thinking the name sounds a lot like “graphite,” there’s a reason for that. When carbon appears by itself in nature, it’s usually as graphite. Meticulously separate all the layers of graphite and you’ll end up with graphene.

Graphene is also virtually transparent and electrically conductive. With such properties, it has a lot of uses in computing.

Transistors, and the memory and processors they make up, have traditionally been made of silicon. That’s one row down on the periodic table from carbon, so they share some characteristics. When arranged as graphene, carbon suddenly becomes much more useful.

How much more? How about a thousand times more?

One possible use of graphene is in memory. Apparently cobalt is a major ingredient in our current recipe for data storage, but a single “grain” of cobalt has 50,000 atoms. Attaching graphene, which can be isolated into much

smaller grains, can make memory about a thousand times more dense. That’s a lot more stuff that can be stored in the same amount of physical space.

Bigger is better, but faster is fantastic ... er. A year ago, IBM showed off a transistor that operated at 100GHz. You read that right, but read carefully: that’s a single transistor, so comparing it directly to the Core i7 or Phenom processor in your laptop won’t work. When you combine thousands and thousands of individual transistors into a general-purpose processor, you introduce a lot of delay as electrons travel from one to another.

Graphene’s low resistance seriously reduces that delay, though, so in addition to switching quickly by itself, a graphene transistor passes signals very fast. A processor is unlikely to be made out of just graphene, but even combined with silicon, future CPUs could hit 1THz — that’s one terahertz, or 1000GHz.

Another application of graphene could be exceptionally thin, even flexible touchscreens. Touch overlays, measuring in excess of two feet diagonally, have already been produced. Obviously that’s plenty big enough to go over existing LCD screens on phones and computers. If the display itself can be made of atomically thin sheets, and the processor and memory can be as well, what’s to stop you from rolling up your giant-screen tablet and sticking it in your pocket? Or wearing your phone as a bracelet?

But even graphene’s golden boy status isn’t assured. On Jan. 31, ScienceDaily.com ran a headline reading, “New Transistors: An Alternative to Silicon and Better Than Graphene.” Yup, it’s famous enough that there are already young punks — in this case, molybdenite — looking to knock down the up-and-coming prince.

It’ll be years before we see these new products in stores, but it’s nice to look forward to, huh?

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Weekly Dish

Notes from the local food scene

• **Valentine's Day dinner part one:** The Holy Grail Pub, 64 Main St., Epping, 679-9559, www.theholysgrailpub.com, will be open at 4 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 14, and serve its regular menu plus Valentine's Day specials.

• **Valentine's Day dinner part two:** Jerome's Deli, 393 Bridge St., Manchester, 623-5388, www.jeromesdeli.com, is taking orders until Saturday, Feb. 12, for Valentine's Day dinners for two. For \$36.95, guests may choose two entrees including fresh salmon, roasted pork tenderloin, chicken saltimbocca, veal oscar, steak au poivre or lamb chops, all served with salad, potato, vegetable and a chef's choice appetizer and dessert. Orders will be ready for pick-up after 10 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 14.

• **Valentine's Day dinner part three:** Granite Restaurant & Bar, 96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9000, www.graniterestaurant.com, will serve a three-course menu and complimentary champagne toast for \$45 per person from Friday, Feb. 11, through Monday, Feb. 14.

• **Love is blind:** WineNot Boutique, 170 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, www.winenotboutique.com, will host a blind wine and chocolate pairing on Thursday, Feb. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. The tasting will feature three chocolates from Dancing Lion and a cheese pairing. The cost is \$40.

• **Not too shabby gifts for V-Day:** Shabby Chic, 4 Cobbetts Pond Road, Windham, 898-2442, www.shabbychicwindham.com, is offering delivery service for its chocolate-dipped strawberries and cupcake boxes and towers from Saturday, Feb. 12 through Monday, Feb. 14.

• **Meet the farmer and support the breast cancer center:** The Concord Cooperative Market, 24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, www.concordfoodcoop.com, will sponsor Heart of the Grape, an event to support the genetic counseling program at the Concord Hospital Breast Cancer Center, at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord on Thursday, Feb. 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The event will feature a sampling of more than 100 international wines and food from local restaurants. Tickets cost \$30 and can be purchased at <http://giveteto.concordhospital.org/NetCommunity> or by calling 225-2711 ext. 3076. The staff from Miles Smith Farm in Loudon will be available to answer questions and hand out samples of their goods at the co-op on Thursday, Feb. 24, from 4 to 6 p.m.

• **Chocolate, wine and jewelry:** The Sharon Arts Center, 20 Depot St., Peterborough, 924-7676, www.sharonarts.org, will host "Be Mine!: Chocolate, Jewelry & Wine" on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 4 to 6 p.m. The event will feature a sampling of wines from Jewell Towne Vineyards and chocolates, as well as a live piano performance and jewelry sale.

• **Get back on your feet and help others do the same:** The New Hampshire Food Bank, 700 E. Industrial Drive, Manchester, will hold an information session for its Recipe for Success culinary training program on Thursday, Feb. 17, and Wednesday, Feb. 23, both at 9 a.m. The eight-week program helps unemployed and low-income adults ready themselves to re-enter the workforce or learn new job skills in the kitchen. The food bank will also host a "Grape Expectations" event on Thursday, Feb. 17, from 6 to 8

Continued on page 39

The romance of chocolate

Shops have you (and your candy) covered for Valentine's Day

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Chocolate is showing no signs of losing its status as a Valentine's Day staple, but it is taking on new and exciting forms for the holiday.

"In my mind it is all about romance," said Theresa Anderson, owner of Swan Chocolates. "When [you] think about a romantic dinner, candlelight — chocolate is naturally decadent and sinful ... so when celebrating a holiday when you are all cozy and cuddly, it kind of comes together."

Swan Chocolates in Merrimack and Nashua recently released its Sweet Romance collection, filled with toasted hazelnut crunch, chocolate-drenched strawberry, sinful hot chocolate and pink champagne toast (as in "cheers," not bread) truffles and solid white, milk and dark chocolate hearts. The sinful hot chocolate truffles are a new addition at Swan and are adorned with white chocolate hearts and sparkles with an edible luster dust.

"It adds a little shimmer and allows us to dress things up," Anderson said of the luster dust.

The case that holds the Sweet Romance collection is a brown limited-edition cigar-style box made in Nepal. The purchase of the boxes, Anderson said, sustained a village in Nepal for three months.

Swan Chocolates also recently began offering its Goddess Collection of truffles and the Key to Your Heart, in time for the most romantic day of the year.

The Key to Your Heart is a key made of one quarter pound of chocolate and covered in gold luster dust. The key is packaged in a long thin gold box with a red ribbon tied around it, with a skeleton key and tag reading: "Key to Your Heart" on the bow.

Long gone are the "old-school" red velvet heart boxes adorned with doilies at Van Otis in Manchester, as the shelves are filled with more modern cases to hold treats for your sweetheart: chocolate boxes, filled or waiting to be filled, now come in metallic, satin and covered in a variety of patterns. The shop also sells guy-friendly boxes decorated like tuxedos and collared shirts with ties. Boxes are able to hold one quarter of a pound to seven pounds, which go for \$200.

At both Swan and Van Otis, champagne comes covered in chocolate. The champagne bottle is shrink-wrapped, then dipped in chocolate. Customers are instructed to cut the wrap off at the neck of the bottle, and if it's chilled, the chocolate will fall off to be eaten in chunks. Van Otis accepts orders for custom messages to be written in chocolate on the bottles, as well as on blank chocolate hearts, and the bottles at Swan are pre-decorated with sparkling edible champagne-flavored paillettes to give the appearance of bubbly spilling out.

Lakisha Jones, floor manager at Van Otis, said she hopes that another one of the store's adult-centric gifts — chocolate cordials made with Zorvino wines — turns out to be a best seller this year. They are sold at the shop in chocolate raspberry port, Cranzeeno, Bacca Z,



Above, bouquets of foil-wrapped chocolate roses at Van Otis Chocolates. Below, truffles from Swan Chocolates. Angel Roy photo.

Fragole strawberry and brandy flavors.

Swan also sells a black Muscat dessert wine, its label adorned with a heart, as well as a Framboise that pairs well with dark chocolate, Anderson said.

For children, Swan sells the Krispy Heart, a chocolate-dipped heart-shaped cereal treat on a stick, and Van Otis sells chocolate-covered cereal treats and marshmallows.

Chocolate mold rose pops in milk, white and dark chocolate, all hand-painted with colored luster dust to add green to their leaves and red to their petals, fill a display at Swan. At Van Otis, chocolate rose pops are wrapped in red and pink foil and come on fake stems, and cloth roses sprout from chocolate flower pots.

Real long-stemmed roses can be ordered at Swan Chocolates and will be ready for pick-up on Friday, Feb. 11.

Roses are not the only long-stemmed item sold at Swan, as the shop offers chocolate-dipped long-stemmed strawberries that fill the palm of your hand — more than 5,000 were sold at the store last year. Van Otis sells chocolate-covered jumbo strawberries and cherries, and with 24 hours' notice Van Otis can also build a chocolate strawberry tree of 50 dipped berries fused together with chocolate.

Fondue chocolate for homemade dipping or to fill a chocolate fountain is available at Swan.

A tower of three red metallic boxes, wrapped and packaged together, is filled with a variety of sweets for Valentine's Day. The largest box contains Van Otis' famed Swiss fudge, another has

Chocolate-covered Oreo cookies and the smallest one has a ¼-pound bag of assorted Valentine's Day candy, including conversation hearts, jelly beans, gummy bears and cinnamon hearts, which are also sold in individual bags.

Glass jars on the shop's counter are filled with pink and red foil-wrapped chocolate hearts; Jones said the shop sells between 70 and 90 pounds annually of just the red alone.

The best part of being able to fill the needs of someone seeking a gift for their Valentine, Jones said, is helping them to start a tradition.

"We have one customer that comes in every year to fill a heart box he purchased for his



Valentine 15 years ago and it's falling apart ... we are able to help make people's experience with the holiday one to enjoy, one to remember," she said.

Sweet shops

Here are a few more local candy stores offering sweets for your sweetie:

- **A. Little Confection** (124 1/2 Main St., Concord, 219-0120, www.a-little-confection.com)
- **Ava Marie Chocolates** (Grove Village Shops, 43 Grove St. in Peterborough, 924-5993, www.avamariechocolates.com)
- **Byrne & Carlson Chocolatier** (121 State St., Portsmouth, 559-9778, www.byrneand-carlson.com)
- **Candy Kingdom** (235 Harvard St. in Manchester, 641-8470, www.thecandykingdom.com)
- **The Chocolatier** (27 Water St. in Exeter, 888-246-5528, www.the-chocolatier.com)
- **Granite State Candy Shoppe** (9-17 Warren St. in Concord, 1-888-225-2531, www.nhchocolates.com)
- **L. A. Burdick Handmade Chocolates** (47 Main St. in Walpole, 800-229-2419, www.burdickchocolate.com)
- **Nelson's Candy** (65 Main St. in Wilton, 654-5030)
- **Priscilla's Candys of Derry** (27 Crystal Ave. in Derry, 432-3838, www.priscillacandies.com)
- **Stella's Fine Chocolates** (176 Route 101 in Bedford, 472-3131, www.stellasfinechocolate.com)
- **Swan Chocolates** (144 Main St. in Nashua, 501 DW Highway in Merrimack, 423-5950, www.swanchocolates.com)
- **Van Otis Chocolates** (341 Elm St. in Manchester, 800-Van-Otis, www.vanotis.com)

Sweet dream realized

In her 60s, finally baking what she loves



Phyllo custard cups from Sweeties Bake Shoppe in Nashua.. Angel Roy photo.

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Ginny Karvelas got choked up and dabbed her eyes when she asked how she feels about opening her own bakery.

"It's something I have wanted to do all my life — I finally did it," she said. "I have a passion for it, I always have."

Karvelas, now in her 60s, collected and stored kitchen equipment for 15 years in hopes that one day her dream would become a reality. On Oct. 19, it did — she opened Sweeties Bake Shoppe on the corner of Liberty and Kinsley streets in Nashua.

She and her family spent eight months renovating the space that once housed a pizza shop.

"I'm very blessed," Karvelas said. "[My family] are the ones that have gone the gamut."

The shop was named in memory of Karvelas' late sister Athena, who called everyone "sweetie," and Karvelas' family plays an active role at the bakery. Her nephew and godson Peter Tsoukaris, who first informed Karvelas of the vacant space and helped with construction, continues to assist with handiwork at the shop, and his 80-year-old father, Mike, comes in daily to do the chopping or wrap up baked goods.

"He always says 'OK, boss, what's next?'" Karvelas said.

As she is the shop's sole employee, nine of Karvelas' friends volunteer to help, driving to the shop from as far as Dracut, Litchfield, Lowell and Hudson.

Karvelas arrives at the shop at 7:15 a.m. to bake. "What will Aunt Ginny bring today?" was always a topic of discussion before Karvelas' arrival at parties, Tsoukaris said. Karvelas, knowing that each member of her family favored different baked goods, would arrive armed with 15 plates and pans filled with her homemade treats. When the time came to divvy up the leftovers, battles would arise over who would get the pistachio cake. The cake, in the end, would be portioned and wrapped.

Tsoukaris' baked good of choice used to be Karvelas' pecan pie, which she then called "Pete's Wicked Pecan Pie." ("He's not wicked, though, far from it," Karvelas said.)

Karvelas is now selling the pecan pie at her shop, in addition to some other family favor-

ites — chocolate chip cookies, cheesecake, phyllo custard cups, whoopie pies (which she makes with marshmallow Fluff) and Bull-winkles (chocolate-covered peanut butter balls). Among her other baked offerings are apple and blueberry pie, biscotti, blonde and chocolate brownies, cupcakes, mousse cake, muffins, date bread and ginger snaps. Customers may also order dietetic desserts such as cheesecake and chocolate chip cookies.

"We give out free samples and we — meaning me — back up all of our products," Karvelas said.

Embracing her Greek roots, Karvelas also makes and sells baklava and spinach pita.

Karvelas prepares two to three entrees, including American Chop Suey, macaroni and cheese and Shepherd's Pie, and five to six pastries daily — all by herself.

"It's always go, go, go," she said, adding that she stays at the shop until 8 p.m. "When you love what you do, it's not work. It's effortless."

Karvelas also makes and packages ready-to-go soups (pasta fagioli, lentil, Italian wedding) that sit in the four-door illuminated refrigerator behind the counter. She plans to sell fresh homemade salads when the weather gets warmer.

Tsoukaris said he had been a little concerned for his aunt, as at her age many people are retiring and slowing down instead of taking on a new business.

"She was determined," Tsoukaris said. "She is passionate about it and didn't want to take no for an answer."

"She's doing it for the love of doing it," he added.

As Karvelas recalls it, the city hall clerk, also in her 60s, who accepted her business occupancy permit also questioned Karvelas' decision to open a bakery at her age.

"You're opening a what?" she asked, and then gave Karvelas a high five when she heard her plans.

"You go, girl," the clerk said.

"I said, I'm just opening a bakery, not running a marathon," Karvelas said.

Sweeties Bake Shoppe

189 Kinsley St., Nashua, 598-4700
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FOOD

Travelling chef returns

Danville native now heads Brookstone Grille

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com



Kevin Riley. Courtesy photo.

Working as a chef in Las Vegas and Tampa Bay, Danville native Kevin Riley said he began to miss the seasons — not the snow, but crafting menus around the offerings of each season.

“The seasons really dictate how people eat,” Riley said. “In Vegas, when it’s fall it can still be 118 degrees so that doesn’t make you want to bake apples.”

Riley has changed the dinner menu at the Brookstone Grille in Derry twice since taking over as executive chef in July. He moved back to the Granite State for the career opportunity and to be closer to his family.

“Travel has been the most important part [of my career].... I wanted to travel and experience things in life and there is no better way to do that than eating and cooking,” Riley said.

Riley began his culinary career at age 14, working as a dishwasher at the Granite Rose restaurant, where he said he first began to develop a respect for people dining out and the importance of putting out the best product. He went on to graduate from the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in New York in 2001.

“The chef there at the time took me under his wing and expressed the importance of my learning as much as I could before culinary school,” Riley said, adding that many culinary schools have an admission prerequisite of six months’ training.

Riley said he stresses to his 15-member staff at the grille the importance of understanding the fundamentals of cooking.

“The sky is the limit with ingredients when the fundamentals are done properly; that is how you get the best product,” he said.

After graduating from the CIA, Riley went to work at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston, where a high standard was set for dining.

“Everything was perfect,” he said. “It all about details and being detail-oriented.”

In Las Vegas, Riley worked as a sous chef at the Belaggio Hotel, at AquaKnox at the Venetian Hotel and at Todd English’s Olive restaurant. He went on to open the Westin Hotel Tampa Bay, where he worked for a year and a half.

“When you are day in and day out running a big hotel ... it just takes a little bit of a toll on you,” Riley said.

Riley also spoke of the camaraderie among kitchen staffs at even the largest of restaurants, with some, like the Belaggio, boasting 200 cooks and chefs and 60 executive and sous chefs. In a situation like that, “you are always learning,” he said.

Working in a more intimate setting at Brookstone Grille, Riley said, will allow him the ability to watch over wedding functions while also overseeing the restaurant.

The menu at the Brookstone Grille was a four-page book until Riley arrived and simplified it to two. New items added to the appetizer menu by Riley are the steamed Prince Edward Island mussels with minced jalapeños and Riesling lemon emulsion, and the Beef Carpaccio with whole-grain mustard aioli, parsley-caper puree and shaved parmesan. A roasted garlic and thyme crusted pork loin served with butternut squash puree, Brussels sprouts, candied walnuts, apples and a cider gastrique, and Osso Bucco, a slow-braised veal shank served with creamy fontina polenta, Swiss chard, roasted tomato demi glace and gremolata, were added to the entrée menu. Riley kept the haddock on the menu, as it continues to be a customer favorite, but now serves it with a ratatouille of pureed roasted peppers on the bottom, season and grilled zucchini, summer squash and eggplant and basil whipped potatoes. The specials list often boasts such offerings as a duck salad served with blue cheese fritters and beets.

Riley also added more sandwiches to the grille’s lunch menu, including a roasted turkey sandwich with gouda cheese, avocado and whole-grain mustard aioli, and a pastrami Reuben.

“It’s a little more flavorful [than corned beef] and people like a hot pastrami sandwich, so it was a nice way to tie it in,” Riley said.

“It’s about giving people what they want,” he continued. “People now are looking for quick eats, I wouldn’t call it fast food, just a little less formal.”

Riley said he tells his staff to take ownership of their product.

“I like the people on my side producing the best thing ... we want to make sure everyone loves the food and atmosphere,” he said. “When you do it right and do it great, people appreciate that.”

Food Listings

Farmers markets

• **BEDFORD — WINTER FARMERS MARKET** Uniquely NH Farmers’ Winter Market at Bedford Fields, Route 101 in Bedford, bedfordfields.com. The market will run Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 19. See the website for a list of vendors, which will include jams and jellies, bath and body

products, maple products, jewelry, baked goods and dairy.

• **CONCORD — WINTER FARMERS MARKET** will run the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, January through March, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Cole Gardens greenhouse at 430 Loudon Road in Concord, 229-0655, www.colegardens.com, Feb. 12, Feb. 26, March 12 and March

26. The market is scheduled to feature dairy, seafood, meats, eggs, garlic, jams and jellies, granola, maple syrup, honey, greens, breads, pastries, cider, apples, dog treats and more as well as live music and events for kids. See www.concord-winterfarmersmarket.com or e-mail joconnornh@yahoo.com.

• **DERRY WINTER MARKET** Veterans Hall Gymnasium, 31 West

FOOD

Say it with crème brûlée

Tasty, temperamental dessert is gracing local menus

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Though crème brûlée recipes typically involve only four ingredients — sugar, cream, eggs and flavoring — it is not a dish often made at home because it is perceived as being difficult to make, said Joe Drift, chef and owner of Saffron Bistro in Nashua.

“Custard can be very temperamental — sometimes you can cook it too long or not enough.... You just have to watch it until it sets,” Drift said.

At Saffron Bistro, Drift offers a gingerbread eggnog crème brûlée for the holiday season instead of the Madagascar or Tahitian vanilla version of the dessert that is available on his menu throughout the rest of the year. In his recipe, gingerbread eggnog takes the place of cream.

Overcooking crème brûlée results in a gritty texture, causing the custard to break apart easily: “It won’t have that creamy texture; custard is supposed to be firm but creamy when you eat it,” Drift said. “When you undercook it you will know right away because it will be like soup.”

When preparing crème brûlée, Drift said using a shallow cup will help it cook most consistently. Most crème brûlée cups stand at an inch tall. If a taller cup were to be filled with the custard and baked, Drift said the top would burn before the inside could cook thoroughly.

In the oven, the serving dishes must be lined up in water bath, a cooking tray or pan filled with water.

“It creates a moist environment in the oven ... [the water] won’t boil per se but what is will do is let off steam as the crème brûlée is cooking and the moist air will keep the surface of the crème brûlée from browning,” said Damian Martineau, chef and owner of Damian’s on the River in New Boston.

When the edges of the crème brûlée show a pudding-like firmness and only the center has a little jiggle, Martineau said it can be taken out of the oven. The crème brûlée must then be chilled for at least seven hours.

“Even though it’s cooked it needs to set, like a cheesecake,” Drift said.

Before serving, the dessert is sprinkled with sugar and torched until the top layer is crisp and lightly browned.

A vanilla bean lavender and pumpkin crème brûlée are listed on the dessert menu at Damian’s on the River in New Boston. The lavender is plucked from an on-site garden, as are many herbs often used in the restau-



Vanilla creme brulee at Firefly American Bistro & Bar in Manchester. Angel Roy photo.

rant’s version of the dish. The pumpkin crème brûlée is made by blending a cooked pumpkin puree, ginger, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg into a standard crème brûlée recipe.

“I just put in a little bit, not so much that it changes the texture per se,” Martineau said. “You have to be careful with the formulation of the recipe.”

Martineau said during the fall and early winter he also creates a maple brown sugar or maple walnut version of the dish.

David Becker, executive chef of Firefly in Manchester, attributed the crème brûlée craze to the ever growing sweet tooth among diners.

“I’ve watched the popularity of crème brûlée skyrocket over the last couple of years.... It’s probably our best-selling dessert,” Becker said.

Firefly, Becker said, regularly offers a traditional Madagascar vanilla bean version of the dish, topped with fresh whipped cream and berries, and occasionally a chocolate crème brûlée made with chocolate ganache.

“We usually just stick to the original, we go with the whole ‘if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it’ approach,” Becker said.

At Zampa in Epping, vanilla crème brûlée is always offered but the crème brûlée of the day is dependent on the season, the weather and the mood of the kitchen, said executive chef Julie DiTursi.

During the holidays you may find an eggnog or Bailey’s Irish Cream version of the dessert. Fruit crème brûlée are often found on the menu during the summer, which DiTursi flavors by adding a dash of schnapps or liqueur — “Just a little bit of liquid to give it its essence,” she said.

A bestseller at Zampa, which DiTursi said is an acquired taste, is the orange honey lavender crème brûlée made with steeped flavoring from orange zest and dried lavender flowers.

“People get so much pleasure in taking that spoon and dipping it into that cracked surface and seeing it crumble a little bit to get to that sweet smooth custard,” DiTursi said. “It’s a texture party.”

Broadway, Derry, from noon to 4 p.m. on the first and third Sunday of every month through March 20. Visit www.derry-nh.org or e-mail bevferante@msn.com.

• **MILFORD** winter farmers market will begin on Sat., Feb. 19, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Milford Town Hall Auditorium. The market will then be held the first Saturday of the month through May (March 5, April 2 and May 7). Items scheduled to be sold include elk, turkey, beef, pork and chicken, fresh eggs, milk, winter vegetables, canned

preserves, baked goods and hand-crafted items. See milfordmainstreet.org or call 672-4567.

• **SALEM WINTER MARKET** at United Methodist Church, 8 Pleasant St., Salem, runs Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will run two Saturdays a month through March: Feb. 5, Feb. 19, March 5 and March 19. See www.salemnhfarmersmarket.com.

• **WEARE WINTER MARKET** Each Friday from 3 to 6 p.m., pick up pre-ordered meat, milk, eggs, bread, granola, herbs and veggies

at Garden Plum Herb Farm, 290 Quaker St. Once you opt into the program, you’ll get an e-mail each Monday listing available items. Reply by Wednesday at 9 p.m. and then pick up the food on Friday. Participating vendors include Mountain Farm, Random Hills Farm, Warner River, Organics, Abigail’s Bakery and Will ‘n’ Roses. See http://gardenplum.com/farmersmarket/index_winter.html.

• **FOOD MAPS** The NH chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association offers maps (available in



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FOOD

In the spotlight



Daisy's Holiday Cooking: Delicious Latin Recipes for Effortless Entertaining, by Daisy Martinez with Chris Tyler (2010, Atria, 163 pages)

Ham, turkey, ham, turkey — sometimes you need to escape the special-occasion food rut. That's where Daisy Martinez, host of the Food Network's *Viva Daisy*, comes in. She offers suggestions for a variety of holidays and variety of kinds of meals — brunch, breakfast, dinner — that break out of the standard flavors. She has a winter "linner" — lunch/dinner — featuring Sweet Plantain "Canoes" filled with Shrimp Diablo. For days like Christmas when you'll have a big crowd but not a lot of time to fuss, she recommends a breakfast of Pisto Manchego and Potato, Fig and Blue Cheese quiches. New flavors, crowd-pleasing dishes.

She lays out each menu with an accompanying cocktail and notes about putting the recipe together. Most importantly, each meal comes with a preparation schedule featuring what to do when — as far in advance as three or four weeks in some cases, giving you the ultimate gift, the ability to relax and enjoy the meal yourself.

— Amy Diaz

CSAs

• **LOCAL HARVEST CSA** Snow's still on the ground but the CSAs (community supported agriculture, which sell shares of upcoming harvests) are already looking for members. Local Harvest CSA runs May through November and will offer three season plans this year — a three week spring membership, an 18-week summer membership and a five-week fall membership, according to a press release. Call 731-5955 for details.

Festivals/cook-offs/expos/parties/book events

• **GIRL SCOUT COOKIES** Girl Scout Cookie booth sales (where you can buy the cookies and begin devouring them that moment) will be Sat., Feb. 19, through Sat., March 26. See www.girlscoutsgwm.org for a list of booth sales locations.

• **WINE & CHOCOLATE TASTING** Butter's Fine Food and Wine, 70 North Main St., Concord, 225-5995, www.buttersfinefood.com, will host a tasting of Valentine wines and chocolates on Thurs., Feb. 10, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Pianist Jayne Kelley will perform.

• **CHOCOLATE & CHOCOLAT** On Sat., Feb. 12, see the Johnny Depp film *Chocolat* and enjoy some chocolate at the Brush Gallery in Lowell, Mass. A chocolate tasting will run from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Brush Gallery. Then at 7 p.m., head to the National Park Visitor Center Theater, 246 Market St. in Lowell, Mass., for a screening of *Chocolat*. And there will be post-film chocolate treat. Tickets cost \$10. Go to www.thebrush.org to purchase tickets. And, before the event, come to the Lowell National Historical Park for the free presentation "Chocolate: Mexican Style" from 4 to 5 p.m. The event will feature Alex Whitmore of Taza Chocolate and Ricardo and Maria Candiani, owners of Mr. Jalapeno in

Lowell. • **JAMES D'ADAMO** Dr. James L. D'Adamo, originator of the Blood Type diet, will speak about his book *Just an Ounce of Prevention Is Worth a Pound of Cure* on Thurs., Feb. 24, at 6 p.m. at the Roosevelt Room at the Best Western in Manchester, according to a press release. The event is free and sponsored by A Market, 125 Loring St. in Manchester, 668-2650, www.amarketnaturalfoods.com. Call or go online for more information. • **EDIE CLARK** will discuss New England foods at "Fried Clams and Baked Beans: How Food Defines a Region" on Sun., Feb. 27, at 2 p.m. at Rye Public Library, 581 Washington Road in Rye, 964-8401. Free. • **GOURMET FESTIVAL** Nashua Pastoral Care Center will hold its annual fundraising Gourmet Festival & Auction on Sun., March 20, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Nashua Country Club, 25 Fairway St. in Nashua. Local restaurants, caterers and other purveyors of eats and drinks will offer tastes and a silent auction will feature a variety of gift baskets, sports tickets, gift certificates and more. A live auction will feature trips and other big ticket prizes. Tickets cost \$85 before Feb. 21, \$100 after. Call 886-2866 or

Lowell.

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e-mail mwebb@nashuanpcc.org.

Chef events/special meals

• **WINTER WINE FESTIVAL** Wentworth By the Sea in Newcas-
tle, 373-6566, takes New Hamp-
shire's wine week seriously and
holds its Annual Winter Wine Festi-
val through Sat., Feb. 26. See www.
winterwinefestival.com for all the
goings on. The schedule includes
10 grand vintner's dinners, a "Not
So Grand Blue Jeans Dinner," Bubb-
les & Jazz brunches, tasting events
on Wednesdays and more.

• **CHOCOLATE MADNESS**
WINE DINNER Zorvino Vine-
yards, 226 Main St., Sandown, 887-
8463, www.zorvinovineyards.com,
will host its Chocolate Madness
wine dinner on Thurs., Feb. 10, at
7:30 p.m., with a cocktail hour held
at 6:30 p.m. The event will feature
three appetizers made with chocolate
paired with six Zorvino wines. The
dinner is \$32 per person. Reserva-
tions are required. The winery will
also host an author's night on Fri.,
Feb. 11, from 6 to 9 p.m. Up to 50
local authors are scheduled to sign
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• **VALENTINE'S WINE**
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Weekly Dish

continued from page 34

p.m. in its new culinary kitchen. Tickets cost \$50 and all proceeds benefit the food bank. For tickets, call Sara Anderson at 669-9725 or e-mail her at sanderson@nhfoodbank.org.

• **Mead me at the Forest:** The Black Forest Café, 212 Route 101, Amherst, 672-0500, www.theblackforestcafe.com, will host a mead tasting with Michael Fairbrother, owner of Moonlight Meadery in Londonderry, on Friday, Feb. 18, from 5 to 7 p.m.

• **Kids eat free:** T-Bones, 25 S. River Road, Bedford, 641-6100; 39 Crystal Ave., Derry, 434-3200; 77 Lowell Road, Hudson, 882-6677; 1182 Union Ave., Laconia, 528-7800; 311 S. Broadway, Salem, 893-3444, www.t-bones.com, and Cactus Jack's, 782 S. Willow St., Manchester, 627-8600; 1182 Union Ave., 528-7800, www.go2cjs.com, will offer free meals off the kids' menu to children ages 12 and under from Monday, Feb. 21 through Thursday, Feb. 24. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

• **Face time with the chef:** T-Bones, 39 Crystal Ave., Derry, 434-3200, www.t-bones.com, will host "After Work with Chef Nicole – Sips, Inside Tips & Treats" on Monday, Feb. 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. The theme of the event will be "Red, White and Blue," as the event falls on Presidents Day, and will feature red and white wines and a blue curacao specialty drink. Sweet potato skins with bacon and brown sugar butter will be served.

• **Dine out, support the youth:** More than 13 Manchester restaurants will participate in "Dine Out for Youth" on Tuesday, Feb. 22 and donate a percentage of their sales to the YMCA of Greater Manchester to support its Youth Opportunities Unlimited programs. Participating Manchester eateries include Ben & Jerry's Scoop Shop, Chuck E. Cheese's, Firefly American Bistro & Bar, Hart's Turkey Farm, KC's Rib Shack, Longhorn Steakhouse, Papa Gino's, Piccola Italia Ristorante, Republic, Shorty's American Roadhouse, Suddenly Susan's Gourmet Deli, Wings Your Way and Z Food and Drink. Mention "Dine Out for Youth" to make your donation.

• **Tea and books:** Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St., Exeter, 778-9731, waterstreetbooks.com, will host Lise Stern on Thursday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. for a discussion and signing of her book *Culinary Tea*:

More than 150 Recipes Steeped in Tradition from Around the World. The event is free and open to the public.

• **Celebrate women with wine:** WineNot Boutique, 170 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, www.winenotboutique.com, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day on Tuesday, March 8, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The event will feature a lecture, French wine-tasting and book signing by local author Lorraine Liscio. The cost is \$30. Call to reserve a spot.

• **Things are brewing:** IncrediBREW, 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, www.incredibrew.com, will host a Hop Appreciation Night on Wednesday, March 23, at 6 p.m. Different hop varieties will be used for each batch of beer brewed. Each variety case will cost \$35 and will include a sampling of all beer brewed during the event. The brewery will also host March Meadness on Friday, March 25, at 7 p.m. Those attending will assist in making spiced pomegranate zinfandel, green apple Riesling and traditional meads. The cost is \$60 for six bottles, and guests must return in six weeks for bottling. Snacks and refreshments will be served. IncrediBREW will hold an Animal Rescue League Winefest on Friday, April 29, at 6 p.m. to benefit the Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire. At that event, guests will make, bottle and label Super Tuscan, German Riesling, Pinotage, Gruner Veltliner, Granny Smith Riesling and Amarone wine. The cost is \$65 for six bottles. Space is limited.

• **Hold your events at the Grail:** The Holy Grail Pub, 64 Main St., Epping, 679-9559, www.theholylgrailpub.com, will open its new function hall, called "Camelot," the second weekend in March for meetings, banquets, parties and weddings. The room features audiovisual equipment and a large screen.

• **Have a drink to support the animals:** The Drinkery at Tupelo Music Hall, 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, www.tupelolondonderry.com, is now serving IncrediBREW's Animal Rescue League wine series.

• **Gourmet grilled cheese:** Butter's Fine Food and Wine, 70 North Main St., Concord, 225-5995, www.buttersfinefood.com, has expanded its sandwich menu to include a grilled salami and fontina cheese, smoked ham and talligio cheese and cheddar with prosciutto and fig jam sandwich.

Meal deals

• **FRIENDLY'S DISCOUNT** Area Friendly's restaurants are raising money for Easter Seals NH. For a \$1 donation, Friendly's will give out five Valentine's Day cards redeemable for a free kids cone and a \$5 off a \$25 purchase coupon, according to a press release. The fundraiser will run through Feb. 13 and support the Easter Seals Camp Friendly's programs. See www.easterseals.com, search "Friendly's" and click on the top link to find a participating Friendly's restaurant.

• **T-BONES DISCOUNT** Donate \$5 for The CareGivers at a T-Bones Great American Eatery or Cactus

Jack's Great West Grill and get a \$5 dining certificate to use at your next visit. The promotion runs through Monday, Feb. 14. See t-bones.com

Church/charity suppers/ bake sales

• **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** The Muchachos Drum & Bugle Corps will hold a fundraising pancake breakfast on Sat., Feb. 12, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, 581 Second St. in Manchester. Proceeds will benefit the Muchachos music education program. Tickets will cost \$5 at the door and include pancakes, sausage and beverage. See www.muchachos.org.

celebrate Valentine's Day with wine pairing events. On Sun., Feb. 13, it's a Valentine's Day Wine & Dine Brunch starting at noon. The cost is \$55 per person. See the menu at www.vintnerscellamh.com/Valentines.htm.

• **A TASTE OF IRELAND**, a fundraiser hosted by the Rivier College Alumni and Parents Councils, is scheduled for Saturday, March 5, at 6 p.m. at the Dion Center at Rivier College, 420 S. Main St. in Nashua. Tickets cost \$50 per person and the evening will include Irish music, dancers, bagpipes, appetizers and beer. E-mail mbollinger@rivier.edu for tickets.

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Course #2

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Course #3

chicken, roasted potato and a vegetable gratin
over basil tossed arugula

beef tenderloin with wild mushroom risotto and
shallot demi glaze

butter poached lazy lobster with crab stuffed
squash and a lobster fondue

vegetarian risotto

Course #4

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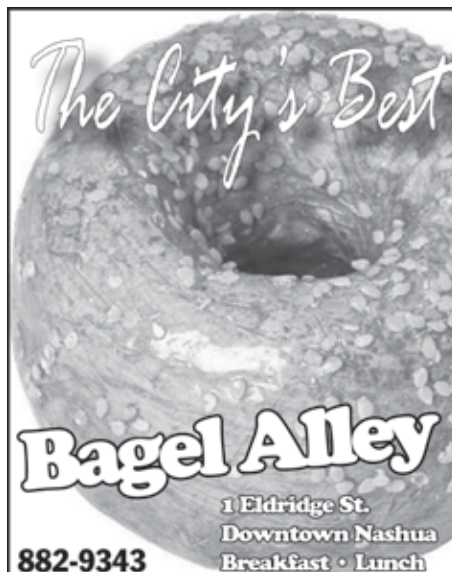
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FOOD

Patricio Julian Santos

An Argentine winemaking tradition

By Paulette Eschrich
food@hippopress.com

Growing up at Bodega Norton, an Argentine winery founded in 1895, Patricio Santos always knew he would follow in his father's footsteps and become a winemaker. It appears that tradition may continue; his daughter who will be finishing high school this year has already expressed a desire to become a wine-maker. In the early 1990s Patricio worked with his father, Ricardo Santos, to plan and nurture their family vineyard, La Madras, just south of Mendoza. In 2004, with his brother Pedro, he founded Tercos Winery to produce quality wines at moderate prices. Today Patricio is the winemaker for the Ricardo Santos wines and Tercos Winery, as well as a consultant to other Argentine wineries.

Patricio attended Universidad Nacional de Cuyo in Mendoza to study viticulture and oenology, followed by a master's degree from the University of California at Davis. Pursuing a career in the Argentine wine industry, especially winemaking, has become more popular as evidenced by the growth in educational opportunities in Mendoza as well as the number of aspiring winemakers who travel around the globe to learn traditional methods and emerging technologies. Patricio asserts that it is important to have a sound knowledge acquired from study, but that the real learning takes place in the vineyards and at the winery.

Every harvest presents new challenges, and a talented winemaker has many decisions to make. Just like an artist or a musician, a winemaker seeks but never achieves perfection. The winemaker strives to elicit the best wine possible while responding to the realities of grape yields and quality, market pressures and consumer preferences. The competition, whether it is a neighboring winery or wines from Portugal, Italy or Australia, is constantly improving its quality. How to achieve increased quality and keep prices competitive is the task facing Patricio. Tercos, the name of the winery, means "stubborn" in Spanish and the burro on the label reflects the tenacity and commitment of the Santos family.

Patricio travels to the United States several times a year as an ambassador for their wines. This year he timed his visit to participate in several New Hampshire Wine Week activities. I caught up with him before a lecture, food and wine tasting, and bottle signing at WineNot Boutique in Nashua and at the Easter Seals Winter Wine Spectacular in Manchester. Patricio's passion for winemaking and Argentina is contagious. I asked him if he had ever been tempted to stay in California (he was born in Los Angeles) and make wine there. It was as if he had never even considered the possibility. He knew Argentina had the potential to create great wines and he wanted to be part of that quest.

2009 Tercos Torrontes, Salta (NH Code 15178) \$15.99

2009 was the first vintage of this fragrant dry white for Tercos. The grapes were harvested, crushed and fermented at a local winery in Salta under the watchful eye of Patricio. The wine was transported to their winery in Mendoza for blending and bottling.

Torrontes is considered an Argentine grape, and for many years it was mass-produced for the domestic market. Patricio believed that Torrontes had the potential to be better, and a key to its fresh, bright fruitiness is the cold fermentation and exclusive use of stainless steel. Too often served over-chilled, this wine has aromatics of peach and melon reminiscent of Muscat, but the palate reveals citrus and tropical fruits with a crisp, lively finish. Available at WineNot Boutique in Nashua, Wine Studio and UnWined in Manchester, and Zampa Restaurant in Epping.

2009 Ricardo Santos Semillon, Mendoza (NH Code 13252) \$17.99

The completion of the railway from Buenos Aires to Mendoza and the arrival of a French viticulturalist in the late 1800s were a turning point for the Mendoza wine industry. The Frenchman brought new grape varieties, Semillon and Malbec among them. The railroad opened up new markets. This Semillon is made from 70-year-old vines tended by a neighbor, Roberto Azzareto. Less aromatic than the Torrontes, this off-dry Semillon has more body, a deeper yellow color, and pure fruit untouched by oak (Patricio feels oak is overused to the detriment of many wines). Look for subtle tangerine and almonds with some floral notes on the finish. In stock at WineNot Boutique in Nashua, Wine Studio and UnWined in Manchester, and Zampa Restaurant in Epping.

2008 Tercos Sangiovese, Mendoza (NH Code 10729) \$16.99

Although the Spanish were the first to explore the area we know as Argentina, Italy has sent more immigrants to this fertile land. Garnet-hued, this unoaked Sangiovese exhibits cassis and ripe strawberries mixed with an earthy smokiness like cured meats. The high acidity and medium tannins are in balance, providing a delightful pairing with an antipasto platter, hard sausages and traditional Italian fare. Available at Angela's Pasta in Manchester, Cornucopia Wine and Cheese in Exeter, Bedford's Harvest Market and the establishments listed above.

2008 Ricardo Santos Malbec, Mendoza (NH Code 42797) \$20.99

Although not designated as single-vineyard on the label, this saturated, inky purple wine comes from the La Madras vineyard situated at 2,800 feet in the Andes Mountains. This Malbec is lightly oaked for six months in French and American barrels. Pungent with dark fruit — black cherries, blackberry jam, and black plums — this wine is restrained and explosive at the same time. The complexity and rich finish stand up to spicy, rich foods. In addition to most of the outlets listed above, you can find this at Dover Wine Company, Windham Country Store, and The Wine Steward in Hampstead. Also on wine lists at Firefly American Bistro, Upstairs at Piccola Italia and Gauchos Churrascaria in Manchester, and the Black Trumpet in Portsmouth.

Plan ahead — April 17 has been designated World Malbec Day. For more information check out www.winesofargentina.org.

Paulette Eschrich is a dedicated oenophile and former wine retailer who runs a wine book club and conducts custom in-home wine tastings.

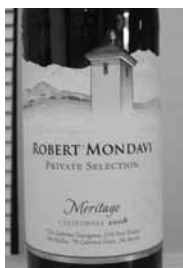
DRINK

Red, white and green A lot of wine, a little cash

In this occasional series, we'll look at red and white wines, none over \$20 (and most under \$15).

Since you may be looking for a good bottle of wine for a special Valentine's Day celebration this week, we thought we'd take a look back at a few of our recent bottles that might go well with whatever you're eating.

If you're bringing a bottle to your sweetheart's house (or picking one up on the way home) and not sure what your food pairings will be, a blend might be a good way to go — specifically, a Meritage. The **Sterling Vintner's Collection 2008 Meritage** (\$9.99) is 57 percent cabernet sauvignon, 37 percent merlot, 3 percent cabernet Franc, 2 percent Petit Verdot and 1 percent malbec. This is a full, round wine — a phrase that kept coming back to us as we tried to describe the flavor. This wine is fruity, with big bright red-fruit flavors, but not crazy and not sweet. Frankly, for \$9.99 this bottle is a bargain. The **2008 Robert Mondavi Private Selection Meritage** (\$8.99) is 72 percent cabernet sauvignon, 11 percent petite verdot, 8 percent malbec, 7 percent cab franc and 2 percent merlot. Fruit on the nose, the serious wine-lover proclaimed. This is a wine you definitely want to take a moment to sniff — you get lovely jammy fruitness and a bit of that fresh honey-wheat bread smell. This bottle is also a bargain at \$8.99. Both of these wines pair well with food and leave plenty of room in the budget for a sparkling wine —



one of our favorites is the **Gruet Rosé Brut** from New Mexico (currently on sale in state stores for \$14.99). This wine is pretty (it's pink!) and makes a nice presentation but it is also tasty and light — it's actually a good sparkling wine alternative for those who find traditional Champagnes too heavy and yeasty.

Looking for something to drink with that Valentine's chocolate? As it happens, we tasted the **2007 Raymond**

Cabernet Sauvignon (\$17.99) with some high-quality chocolate. This wine, which itself has hints of chocolate on the nose and big flavors with lots of tannins, paired well with the chocolate, which was an artisan bar featuring both dark and milk chocolates.

And if you're looking for a bottle to enjoy a glass of on its own or with light appetizers before heading out for your meal, try the **2008 Inscription Petite Sirah** (\$10.94). This wine was big and fruity on the nose — sensations echoed in the flavor. We tasted raspberry and sweet cherries in this wine, which was pleasantly chewy and bright with just a bit of an edge from the alcohol that gave the wine some balance. It was nice to sip on its own and good with food.

"Red, White & Green" is by two wine-lovers, one serious and one casual, who are always on the lookout for a great bottle at a good price. All prices according to the state liquor store (nh.liquor.state.nh.us) unless otherwise stated.

DRINK LISTING Classes/workshops on wine/beer making

• **ST. PAT'S BREWFEST** IncredibleBREW, 112 DW Highway in Nashua, 891-2477, www.incrediblebrew.com, has more beer and wine making and tasting opportunities on the schedule. On Thurs., March 3, and Fri., March 4, at 6 p.m. on both nights, it's another pair of winemaking nights — St. Pat's Brewfest. Make Irish-style brews and return in two weeks for bottling. Thursday night costs \$35 for one variety case, bottles included; Friday night costs \$55 for two variety cases, bottles not included. Spots for classes fill up fast; call to reserve a spot.

Special meals

• **CHOCOLATE MADNESS WINE DINNER** Zorvino Vineyards, 226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, www.zorvinovineyards.com, will host its Chocolate Madness wine dinner on Thurs., Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m., with a cocktail hour held at 6:30 p.m. The event will feature three appetizers made with chocolate paired with six Zorvino wines. The dinner is \$32 per person. Reservations are required. The winery will also host an author's night on Fri., Feb. 11, from 6 to 9 p.m. Up

to 50 local authors are scheduled to sign and sell their books at the free event.

• **WINE & CHOCOLATE** Vintner's Cellar of Bedford, 410 S. River Road in Bedford, 627-9463, vintnerscellarnh.com, will celebrate Valentine's Day with wine pairing events. On Fri., Feb. 11, and Sat., Feb. 12, there will be chocolate and wine pairing sessions. Pair five chocolates with five wines at sessions from 6 to 7:30 p.m. or 8 to 9:30 p.m. The event costs \$25 per person.

• **VALENTINE'S WINE BRUNCH** Vintner's Cellar of Bedford, 410 S. River Road in Bedford, 627-9463, vintnerscellarnh.com, will celebrate Valentine's Day with wine pairing events. On Sun., Feb. 13, it's a Valentine's Day Wine & Dine Brunch starting at noon. The cost is \$55 per person. See the menu at www.vintnerscellarnh.com/Valentines.htm.

Special wine tastings

• **WINE TASTING** Concord Hospital, 250 Pleasant St. in Concord, 225-2712, will hold its annual Heart of the Grape wine tasting benefit on Thurs., Feb. 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. The event will feature more than 100 wines and

tickets cost \$30 per person. For \$75, attend a VIP reception from 5 to 6 p.m. which also includes a Riedel wine glass and samples of the Vineyard Series from J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines. To buy tickets go to concordhospital.org.

• **WINE & CHOCOLATE TASTING** Butter's Fine Food and Wine, 70 North Main St., Concord, 225-5995, www.buttersfinefood.com, will host a tasting of Valentine wines and chocolates on Thurs., Feb. 10, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Pianist Jayne Kelley will perform.

• **WINE TASTING** Van Otis Chocolates, 341 Elm St. in Manchester, 826-6847, www.vanotischocolates.com, will host a wine tasting with Zorvino Vineyards at the shop on Fri., Feb. 11, from 2 to 5 p.m. The shop will also offer free Valentine's Day gift wrapping on Sat., Feb. 12 and Sun., Feb. 13.

• **WINE TASTING BENEFIT** The NH Food Bank will host a wine tasting at its facility, 700 East Industrial Drive in Manchester, on Thurs., Feb. 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$50 per person. The event will feature wine, eats and music and will benefit the Food Bank. Call 669-9725 or e-mail sanderson@nhfoodbank.org for tickets.

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POP CULTURE

**MUSIC, BOOKS,
GAMES, COMICS,
MOVIES, DVDS,
TV AND MORE**

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Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, e-mail Lisa Parsons at lparkers@hippopress.com. To get your author events, library events and more listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

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- *The Eagle*, **C**



- *Sanctum*, **D+**



- *The Roommate*, **C**

POP CULTURE:

CDS

**Cake, *Showroom of Compassion*
Upbeat Records, Jan. 11**



The 50-point headline is that this LP debuted at #1 on the Billboard 200, while the fine print mentions that its associated sales were 42,000 or so, the lowest count ever for a #1. I only mention that in passing — a discussion of the fast-crumbling music industry isn't the point here, CSI of this worthwhile set of lazy-ass Cali slacker-rock is. The horn-driven "Long Time" drips of barrio ennui, telegraphing its intent with police whistles and hypnotically addictive puttering, the latter of which is all well and good if you enjoy hav-

ing absolutely terrible melodies stuck in your head. But there's good stuff too, such as the Strawberry Alarm Clock-ish '60s-authentic "Federal Funding," the lyrics of which sort of want to skewer politicians, maybe, or just sit and stare at the mess things are in, more like. And so this generation of record buyers — i.e. people who buy physical albums, i.e. almost no one you know — has spoken, anointing as a bona fide hero band one that's a fascinating, catchy, but ultimately disposable pot-luck of Pavement, Beck and Calexico. They'll be at the Wang Center in Boston on April 22. **A-** —*Eric W. Saeger*

**Ben Ottewell, *Shapes & Shadows*
ATO Records, Feb. 15**



Of the three main singers in the Guster-style folk-infused Brit-alt band Gomez, Ottewell is the one who sounds like Eddie Vedder (Ottewell sang "See the World" and most of their other more marketable stuff, thus it's kind of him to downplay his importance to the band in the press release for this LP). Here he teams with childhood friend Will Golden of Tunng in a series of songwriting moves probably intended to make him more comparable to James Blunt, such as on the dreary but vocally vibrant slow-dancer "All

Brand New." The title track opener finds Ottewell's pinchy tenor playing up its more Peabo Bryson characteristics in the hope of parlaying the caricature into pop irresistibility, but man, we've been here before, not that that should stop you if you're game for that sound (which a lot of critics aren't, as Blunt recently admitted, and I'll personally drink to that). The songwriting is very good if not Billboard-centric, riding repetitious melodies into sunsets rather than focusing on delayed delivery of in-your-face hookage. **B-** —*Eric W. Saeger*

Playlist

*A seriously abridged
compendium of recent
and future CD releases*

• This is a difficult week for me personally, because too many good new albums — or at least good singles from new albums — are coming out, songs I can't hate and laugh in their face at with onion breath. You'll have to bear with me while I try to find a stupid album to "diss" this week, like maybe Ke\$ha or some other overrated 15-minute loser will save me, but in the meantime why don't you go listen to **PJ Harvey's** "Written on the Forehead," from her forthcoming new album *Let England Shake*. In a departure from her last album of bummer piano music, this is basically two tunes in one, part Yoko Ono-style moonbat-techno-chill and part African tribal hoedown. The whole LP was recorded in an 18th-century church in England, because PJ Harvey is a sorceress and registered witch.

• Like most normal people, **Bright Eyes** leader Conor Oberst chose to ignore the dangers of Barack Saddam Nobama having so many Wall Street criminals as BFFs, and he made up all sorts of songs about how things would be so awesome if we'd just elect Obama, the wars would all be over and yadda yadda. Now that Oberst has been proven a moron sucker like the rest of us, there is no strategy left for Bright Eyes but simply to put out another album, called *The People's Key*, while a few people still have money to buy albums with. Jump-off single is the oddly catchy "Shell Games," which tosses '80s Flashdance keyboards into a foundation of bouncy Gilbert O'Sullivan '70s arena-pop. Hopefully the band will smash more instruments onstage when they play on Jay Leno, because that sort of thing fixed everything in the '60s, and we never got into endless crazy wars of choice again.

• PJ Harvey and Bright Eyes making decent music is weird enough, but for super-crazy, Phyllis Diller's-ghost weird, you can't beat instrumental-metal weirdos **Mogwai**, whose new album, *Hardcore Will Never Die But You Will*, comes out on Tuesday. The teaser track "Rano Pano" is slow sludgy metal guitar with flowery synth lines, and the video shows two of the fellers getting drunk and figuring out how to warp to another dimension by watching *Weird Science* on VHS.

• Hmm, let's see... cripes, give a brother a rotten album to make fun of, already, huh? Hm, **Tina Dico's** double-CD retrospective, definitely awesome... new **Cowboy Junkies** album, called *Demons*, probably awesome... new LP *Ukon Wacka* from crazy-ass grog-thrash band **Korpiklaani**, that couldn't suck if it tried... wait. Ha HA! THERE you are! It's the new **Nelson** album *Before the Rain*, most of which is refried junk from their '80s hair-band mega-seller *After the Rain*! Ha ha! What a stupid album! Hee hee, why, I oughta... wait, this isn't all that horrible. Never mind, don't even read this column this week, just Don't. Bother. WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO ME. — *Eric W. Saeger*

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Sword fight!

Newmarket studio puts fencing on screen



An épée duel. Courtesy photo.

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

Television shows helped popularize poker and mixed martial arts, and now one local producer hopes TV will do the same for the ancient sport of fencing.

Michael Grosse, a producer for 2:17 Studios based in Newmarket, has been working on his show *Bladework*, www.bladework.tv, since August. The first episode aired after Thanksgiving. The show blends fencing competitions with reality television.

Grosse had been an avid runner his entire life and even ran with the UNH track team. But eventually, he had to give it up and a friend suggested he try fencing. Instantly he fell in love. Grosse is now a volunteer fencing coach at UNH.

"People know so little about it," Grosse said.

Yet the sport is both old and steeped in popular culture. Fencing has been part of every Summer Olympic Games since the birth of the modern Olympics in 1896. Sword fighting itself is a major part of some of the most popular movies of all time, like *Zorro* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and, almost instinctively, kids play with sticks, brooms or empty paper towel cartons as if they are swords. A soldier's worth was once defined by his ability with a sword. Then came the firearm and the whole game changed. Now fencing has garnered an unfair reputation.

"There is a huge misconception that it is a rich man's sport," Grosse said. "But that isn't true. In a lot of ways it is cheaper than golf and most clubs have gear you can borrow."

One such club is the Seacoast Fencing Club, which has facilities in Rochester and Manchester. The club, with Grosse, will host a fencing tournament on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 10 a.m. This tournament will be filmed and will air as the season finale of *Bladework* on NBC Universal Sports Boston at 8 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 18.

What Grosse and many others find appealing about fencing is that everyone has a chance to succeed. It doesn't matter whether you're short or tall, strong or fleet-footed; practice makes perfect. Grosse said fencing develops an athlete's speed and coordination.

"There is a real balance between mind and body," Grosse said. "You need concentration and strategy, yet it is a great stress-reliever."

Chris Pullo, owner of Seacoast Fencing Club, said when you're fencing you know you're not really in a sword fight but emotionally it becomes real. You focus intensely, and distractions disappear.

It is also a quick sport. In fact, the tip of the foil (one of three swords used along with the saber and the épée) is the second-fastest moving object in the Olympics, behind the bullets from the shooting events. This speed made

filming a challenge for Grosse, but he used slow-motion replay to give audience members an education on the action. Pullo said fencing's popularity should increase as high-definition televisions become more common — he said when a movie shows good fencing, like *Princess Bride*, there is a spike in new fencers.

Whereas *Bladework's* fencing portion educates, the reality section entertains. This portion follows host Nick Apostolides as he dives into the world of fencing. Grosse met Apostolides on a film set in Gloucester, Mass. Grosse said he seemed like the perfect host as Apostolides had a background in athletics and also playing mercenary characters who handled weapons on film. The season has built up to the finale, which will feature Apostolides competing in the tournament. Proceeds from the tournament go to US FIRST Robotics. Grosse said many youngsters who compete in fencing have also been in FIRST and many, although he said he was generalizing, have been accepted into top-notch universities.

With such a track record of successful competitors and such a long history, Grosse doesn't know why fencing isn't more popular.

"I've tried to figure it out, as I've lived and breathed fencing these past months," Grosse said. "There is no easy answer. What I am looking forward to more is the growing popularity of the sport."

Grosse believes this popularity will come from America's success. In the 2008 Olympics, the United States won six fencing medals, which tied with Italy for most in the world. Grosse said Olympic coverage by NBC is done based on medals won: in 2004 the U.S. only won one medal in fencing, so there was virtually no coverage of the sport in 2008. But with the 2008 success, Grosse is hopeful more people will be exposed to fencing. Grosse also pointed out that Nike has begun manufacturing a fencing shoe. He said the hotbed of fencing is New York and New Jersey and that many former Olympians live in the Boston area. And locally, "eleven Seacoast fencers have won 27 national championships, and six have represented the United States at 17 World Championship events," according to www.seacoastfencingclub.org.

Grosse is doing his part by producing *Bladework*, which he said has received good reviews from the fencing community. He is hopeful for a second season but is still awaiting sponsorship. His model for the show is ideal for advertisers, as each episode features Apostolides doing something applicable to other sports. For example, one episode might have Apostolides going to a sports medicine facility to get checked out before he starts a new sport, and another will have him buy gear at a sporting goods store.

"There isn't a lot of fencing on television," Grosse said. "I think the show will help."

Fencing tournament

When: Saturday, Feb. 12, at 10 a.m.

Where: Seacoast Fencing Club, 271 Wilson St., Manchester

Tickets: Admission is free

More info: E-mail Chris Pullo at c_pullo@mcttelecom.com.

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- **Concord Public Library**
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- **Derry Public Library**
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- **Goffstown Public Library**
2 High St., Goffstown, 497-2102, goffstown.lib.nh.us
- **Hollis Social Library**
2 Monument Sq., Hollis, 465-7721, hollis.nh.us
- **Hooksett Public Library**
1701B Hooksett Rd., Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org
- **Manchester City Library**
405 Pine St. (main branch) and 76 N. Main St. (West branch), 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us
- **Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum**
18 Highlawn Road, Warner, 456-2600, indianmuseum.org
- **Nashua Public Library**
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Other

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- **New Hampshire State Library**
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BOOKS

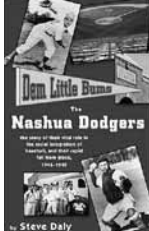
In the spotlight



1800s activist music

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In the spotlight



Nashua's past

On Sunday, Feb. 13, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. the Nashua Public Library, at 2 Court St. in Nashua, 589-4600, will host a local history fair featuring talks on “Nashua's One-Room Schoolhouses” (at 2 p.m.), “Researching Your Old House” (at 3:30 p.m.) plus Steve Daly on his book *Dem Little Bums: The Nashua Dodgers* (2 to 3 p.m.) and more, as well as films showing Nashua's centennial and sesquicentennial parades, and exhibits from the Nashua Historical Society and other groups. Stop in and talk to those who know the city's history and learn about the library's local history and genealogy materials. Snow date is Sunday, March 6.

Manchester, 314-7980, nhwritersproject.org

- **Rivier College**
420 Main St., Nashua, 888-1311, rivier.edu.
- **UNH Manchester**
400 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-4101, unhm.unh.edu

Author events

- **STEPHEN AMIDON** will talk about his book *The Sublime Engine: A Biography of the Human Heart* on Thurs., Feb. 10, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord.
- **GINA GALLAGHER** and **PATRICIA KONJOIAN** will talk about their book *Shut Up About Your Perfect Kid*, about the humor and hope of parenting children who experience a disability, on Fri., Feb. 11, at 7 p.m. on the campus of NHTI in Concord, hosted by the Family Support Council of Community Bridges and the Campus Activities Board at NHTI. The event is free to attend but you must RSVP to Terri Warren of Community Bridges at 226-3212 x269.
- **PATRICIA Q. WALL** will read selections from her books *Beyond Freedom* and *Child Out of Place* and answering questions about the books on Sat., Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. at Manchester B&N.
- **2010-11 UNH WRITERS SERIES** hosted by the UNH English Dept. in the Memorial Union Building at UNH Durham continues with Debra Spark reading from her novel *Good for the Jews* on Thurs., Feb. 17, at 5 p.m.; and Darcy Frey reading from *The Last Shot: City Streets, Basketball Dreams* on Thurs., April 7, at 5 p.m. All Writers Series events are free

and open to the public. See www.unh.edu/English or call 862-1313.

- **TRACY WINN** will talk about her short story collection *Mrs. Somebody Somebody* on Thurs., Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore.
- **SHAMUS RAHMAN KHAN** will talk about his book *Privilege: The Making of an Adolescent Elite at St. Paul's School*, on Thurs., Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore.
- **NOAH BOYD** will talk about his book *Agent X* on Wed., March 2, at 5:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord.
- **KEVIN BEHAN** will talk about his book *Your Dog is Your Mirror: The Emotional Capacity of Our Dogs and Ourselves* on Thurs., Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. at RiverRun Bookstore in Portsmouth.
- **ANDREW CLARK** will talk about his book *Bracketeering: The Layman's Guide to Picking the Madness in March*, on Thurs., March 3, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore.
- **MARGARET ROACH** former editorial director at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia and now blogger of “A Way to Garden,” will talk about her memoir, *And I Shall Have Some Peace There: Trading in the Fast Lane for my Own Dirt Road*, on Tues., March 8, at 5:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore.
- **SARAH VOWELL** will talk about her new book, *Unfamiliar Fishes*, on Thurs., March 24, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Red River Theatres in Concord, hosted by Gibson's Bookstore. This will be a ticketed event; tickets are free with purchase of the book at Gibson's, or \$6 without the book, to help

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POP CULTURE: **BOOKS**

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• **JODI PICOULT** discusses *Sing You Home* on Wed., April 6, at 7 p.m. in the Spotlight Café in the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com, as part of the Writers in the Spotlight series hosted by Gibson's Bookstore. General admission; tickets cost \$6; order online, by phone, or in person at the box office or Gibson's.

Lectures and discussions

• **MARITIME ADVENTURES** is the theme of a new series of events at Amherst Town Library this winter. The second event in the series is "Catch of the Day: Seafood and Eat Food with Oonagh" on Tues., Feb. 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and the final installment is "The Discovery of the Remains of the Submarine USS 0-9" presented by David Switzer on Tues., Feb. 22, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. (the USS 0-9 was launched in 1918 during WWI and sank off the Isles of Shoals in 1941). Free and open to the public; register online or by phone to save a seat.

• **MORE THAN BEADS & BASKETS: THE LIVES AND WORKS OF NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN** Sunday speaker series at Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner at 1 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month through April, and the first Sunday in May and June. Feb. 13: "One Small Sacrifice: Lost Children of the Indian Adoption Projects," with journalist Trace Demeyer.

• **AFTER IRAQ** is a four-part lecture series at UNH Manchester focusing

In the spotlight



Sidore lecture: religion and our planet

The public is invited to join UNH Manchester for the free Spring 2011 Sidore Lecture series, whose theme is "Religion: Outside the Bounds of Tradition." Funding for the series is provided by the Saul O Sidore Memorial Foundation. The series begins with "The Greening of Faith: God, the Environment and the Good Life," presented by John Carroll, professor of environmental conservation at UNH, on Wednesday, Feb. 16, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in the UNHM auditorium at 400 Commercial St. in Manchester. Carroll will discuss the religious and spiritual implications of human interaction with nature and the environment. Professor Carroll believes that the continuing destruction of our environment threatens our planet and our existence on it, but conflict arises in finding a solution to the problem. Following the themes of his book, *The Greening of Faith: God, the Environment and the Good Life*, he will explain how the environment is not only a spiritual issue, but the spiritual issue of our time. See www.unhm.unh.edu.

on U.S. foreign policy and moral dilemmas in the new Middle East. The series is conducted by the World Affairs Council of NH in partnership with UNH Manchester with some funding from the NH Humanities Council. These events are held on Tuesday evenings, 6-7:30 p.m., in the third-floor auditorium at UNHM, free and open to the public. Feb. 22: "U.S. 'grand strategy' and its implications on foreign policy," presented by Tufts University professor William C. Martel. March 22: "The Evolution of Just War and Just Peace Doctrine in the Middle East," presented by Commander Sean Liedman. April 12: "Who are the Kurds?" presented by Qubad Talabani, U.S. representative of the Kurdish Regional Government of Iraq since 2006. May 3: "Counterterrorism and American Foreign Policy Today," presented by retired CIA Station Chief Haviland Smith. Visit wacnh.org or call 314-7970 for more info about the series.

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FILM REVIEWS BY AMY DIAZ



The Eagle

The Eagle (PG-13)

A member of the Roman legion seeks to regain his family's good name by displaying bravery in the wilds of Britain in *The Eagle*, a film with a sword-fighting action movie head welded to the body of a buddy movie.

Marcus Aquila (Channing Tatum) arrives in second-century Britain to serve as military head of an imperial outpost. But this posting is also meant to help him repair his family's name. Decades earlier, his father was head of the Ninth Legion, which marched — 5,000 men strong — into northern Britain and was never heard from again. Not even their golden eagle — the shiny thing they held aloft when they marched so that the native peo-

ples knew where to aim — was found. So the empire built a wall — Hadrian's wall — and nobody ever went north of it again and Marcus Aquila was left with all sorts of father issues.

Perhaps these issues are the reason he charges headlong into battle, like, the first chance he gets and is very brave in his showdown with the hairy local Brits but also gets himself injured and quickly discharged from the military. Mopey about not having a place to work out all his inner turmoil, Marcus sulks around the home of his uncle (Donald Sutherland), healing and looking for a new hobby. A chance attendance at an execution-by-gladiator event earns him a sidekick when he saves a Briton, Esca (Jamie Bell), who becomes his slave.

Esca has his own issues, mostly with Rome and the whole being-a-slave thing, but he bides his time

with Marcus, who is decent if stuck up about the whole “We Are Rome” thing. When Marcus proposes sneaking north of the wall to rescue his father's eagle, Esca comes along as a scout and also because he sees the excellent ditching-this-Roman opportunities available.

“North of the wall” is like saying “wild west” — no laws, shifty characters, native people not so keen on the invading army. At one point, the tables become turned and Marcus is forced to pose as Esca's slave. It's all very dreary and gloomy and since I guess this is supposed to be Scotland it makes sense.

The weather, I mean, not the movie.

From the by-the-numbers enemies-become-friends relationship of Marcus and Esca to the scattered fight scenes (which manage to be just

confusing enough that you can't tell how many people are supposed to be fighting each other at any one time), *The Eagle* feels like a bunch of movies you've seen before and a few you didn't bother seeing the first time: *Centurion*, a little-seen movie from last year, or *King Arthur*, a little-seen movie with slightly more famous people from 2004. And if I never have to hear Channing Tatum try to do — is that an accent? What is that? There's this thing actors, American actors in particular, do when they're playing anything from the beginning of recorded (Western) history through Shakespeare. It's not quite a British accent but it's not quite not a British accent. Whatever that's called, Channing fades in and out of it through the course of the movie and it's distracting. Jamie Bell — yes, that kid from *Billy Elliot* — is lucky; he was born with the right accent.

For all that, *The Eagle* isn't horrible — it has some nice fighting there in the final third and the relationship between Tatum and Bell is fun, even if the movie does, in the end, get carried away with the cutesiness of the Briton-and-Roman fox-and-hound friendship. (You can see them walking on the set of some *Law & Order: Britannia*, with Esca the street-wise Jerry Orbach type and Marcus the cute Benjamin Bratt character.) But there's a heaviness that the movie is never quite able to shake. *The Eagle* is clearly lightweight B-movie action entertainment but it still seems like it's trying to be *Gladiator*. **C**

Rated PG-13 for battle sequences and some disturbing images. Directed by Kevin Macdonald and written by Jeremy Brock (from a novel by Rose-

mary Sutcliffe), *The Eagle* is an hour and 54 minutes long and opens in wide release on Friday, Feb. 11. It is distributed by Focus Features.

Sanctum (R)

A team of divers stuck in a deep cavern that is being flooded serves as the backdrop for a ham-fisted story of a father and son working out their relationship problems in *Sanctum*, an inartful and at times quite boring disaster movie.

So a bunch of people are exploring a cave. This cave is very deep and very mysterious and much of it is filled with water (the goal of the exploration is to find where the river running through the caverns connects with the sea). We have our young characters, our older seasoned characters, our science-y types — but a lot of them die almost immediately so let's just focus on the main characters. Because escaping from a flooded maze isn't drama enough, we have the story of Frank (Richard Roxburgh), a driven explorer, and his son Josh (Rhys Wakefield), his whineypants son who's all “I don't want your life,” a la James Van Der Beek in *Varsity Blues* but without that high level of Van Der Beekian commitment to the character. They clash frequently because Frank is an angry jerk and Josh is more of a chillaxer. Also, there is Carl (Ioan Gruffudd), a rich guy funding the exploration project because blah blah blah look out! this cave is being flooded by exposition. He has a girlfriend Victoria (Alice Parkinson), whose sole purpose as a

Reviewlets: Snack-sized movie reviews

* Indicates a movie worth seeking out. Previously reviewed movies have grades. For full reviews of most movies here or movies previously released, go to www.hippopress.com.

127 Hours (R)

James Franco, Amber Tamblyn. The James-Franco-saws-off-his-arm movie based on the real-life story of Aron Ralston, a hiker trapped in the Southwest. **B**

*Black Swan (R)

Natalie Portman, Mila Kunis. If you see just one disturbing take on a Tchaikovsky ballet this winter, make it *Black Swan*, a dark and strange drama from Darren Aronofsky. *Black Swan* is full of small but elegant touches that all add up to a fascinating, mesmerizing movie. **B+**

Blue Valentine (R)

Ryan Gosling, Michelle Williams. This searing and frequently painful tale of a marriage falling apart is well-performed. **B**

The Company Men (R)

Ben Affleck, Kevin Costner. A group of men deal with losing their jobs. **B**

Country Strong (R)

Gwyneth Paltrow, Tim McGraw. A veteran country singer attempts a career comeback in this enjoyable melodrama. **C+** The Dilemma (PG-13) Vince Vaughn, Kevin James. In a dude-uo, one man finds out that the other man's wife is cheating on him. **D-**

*The Fighter (R)

Mark Wahlberg, Amy Adams. Christian Bale and Melissa Leo shine in this well-acted

movie about a Lowell boxer. **A**

Gnomeo & Juliet (G)

Voices of Emily Blunt, Maggie Smith. Shakespeare's classic love story is told with garden gnomes. Opens Friday, Feb. 11.

*The Green Hornet (PG-13)

Seth Rogen, Cameron Diaz. The radio drama/TV show/comic book gets a 3-D movie update, written by the writers behind *Superbad*. **B-**

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 1 (PG-13)

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson. Harry and company go in search of some magical whatsits that could help them destroy Voldemort once and for all (in Part 2). **B-**

Inside Job (PG-13)

Get ready to gin up some righteous anger at Wall Street and the dog's breakfast it has made of the economy in this documentary about the causes and effects of the financial crisis. **B**

Just Go With It (PG-13)

Adam Sandler, Jennifer Aniston. A man who uses a wedding ring and a story about an unhappy marriage to pick up chicks has to invent a flesh-and-blood ex when he meets a girl he wants to spend more than just a night with. Opens on Friday, Feb. 11.

Justin Bieber: Never Say Never (G)

Justin Bieber, Bieber fever. The floppy-haired tween dream gets the 3-D treatment in this concert-film documentary thing. Opens wide on

Friday, Feb. 11.

*The King's Speech (R)

Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush. Excellent performances — Firth, Rush and Helena Bonham Carter as the Queen Mum — make for great fun in this historical biopic. **A**

*Megamind (PG)

Will Ferrell, Tina Fey. Good battles evil — and we're on the side of evil, specifically Megamind, the misunderstood, large-craniumed blue genius regularly defeated by the strong-jawed Metro Man. **A**

No Strings Attached (R)

Ashton Kutcher, Natalie Portman. Friends have sex but not a relationship — also not chemistry or appeal. **C-**

The Social Network (PG-13)

Jesse Eisenberg, Justin Tim-

berlake.

The founding of Facebook gets the biopic treatment — and thanks to the Golden Globe nominations, it's back in theaters. **B+**

Somewhere (PG-13)

Elle Fanning, Stephen Dorff. A movie star floats through life at the Chateau Marmont. Sofia Coppola's latest film is drowsy, bordering on somnambulant. **B**

Tangled (PG)

Voices of Mandy Moore, Zachary Levi. Disney reworks the Rapunzel story. **B-**

The Town (R)

Ben Affleck, Jon Hamm. Affleck is also in the director's seat for this Boston tale of cops and robbers. **B-**



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POP CULTURE:

FILM Continued

character is to be hilariously bad at deep cave exploration in general and scuba diving in particular. Carl and Frank clash because Frank can't get along with anybody and because it's handy, storywise, toward the end of the movie.

So, to set this up, these people are at the bottom of a deep deep cave, in which, if you keep going down, you can find vast caverns filled with water but also small spaces with air and maybe a way to get to the ocean. And then it starts to rain. Rain comes down, cave fills up, attractive people who are absolutely indistinguishable from each other in scuba gear start to die. And every now and then we pause for some "Dad, how can you be this way" and "son, you have to take responsibility." Were the other characters more developed, they'd likely show some interest in drowning this duo.

I think it's because of the "produced by James Cameron" that you don't expect cheap slasher movie acting but that indeed is what you get. There are quite a few laugh-out-loud moments when the characters' inability to resemble regular humans actually distracts you from the showy effects.

For all that the movie has been hyping its James Cameron connection, *Sanctum*'s use of 3-D actually made me appreciate all the things *Avatar* got right — like using its 3-D to show us something new and giving us the ability to marvel at it. As with this summer's *Piranha 3D*, *Sanctum* is exceptionally dark. People swim single file through tight, low-lit caves — not only is this boring to watch in 2-D, it is absolutely a waste of 3-D. And this is one of those most annoying 3-D movies where the slightest tilt of the head causes everything to go out of focus. (Which, frankly, was fine sometimes. I could trick myself into believing different, less wooden actors were on the screen.)

The whole point, I would imagine, of making a disaster-under-water movie and specifically making it in 3-D would be to show us exciting underwater things — alien-looking worlds and maybe strange creatures. We get none of that. Instead it's a slow slog through caves that remind me of the entryway for some amusement park ride — like we're waiting in line for "Dungeons of the Deep" and occasionally some animatronic people in wet suits come out to spot some line of robotic dialogue.

Though it's likely the robots would have sounded more natural. **D+**

Rated R for language, some violence and disturbing images. Directed by Alister Grierson and written by John Garvin and Andrew Wight, Sanctum is an hour and 43 minutes long and distributed in wide release by Universal Pictures.

The Roommate (PG-13)

Leighton Meester is coming to get you — she'll wear your favorite necklace and try on your perfume boooo scary in *The Roommate*, a college freshmen girl horror movie that yes does include a shower scene.

Two, actually, I believe.

One of the funniest things about this movie — and in that category, the competition is stiff — is how attractive everybody is at this college all the time. Getting ready for bed, going to class, hitting the town, getting a late-night snack. It's like an island where sweatpants were never invented. While, yes, I'm sure late teen and young 20somethings

clean up great, most of the time at my college the uniform (men and women) was sweatpants, oversized shirt, flip-flops (sometimes with socks) and a baseball cap. Sometimes the girls fancied it up and wore jeans and that kind of ponytail that looks like you were about to do a bun but got distracted. At this school, the characters are all polished and lip glossed to perfection at all times.

Sara (Minka Kelly, who looks like what would happen if The Gap tried to build its own Leighton Meester) is all a-giggle about starting her first year at Lipgloss U. She moves into her room before her roommate gets there and heads out to hang with dorm buddies. When she returns, Rebecca (Meester!) has arrived and moved in. She is a quiet lass, hanging her pencil drawings of some random girl (who also looks like a Meester variant) on the wall and keeping her sketchbook super secret. She does, however, enjoy prying into Sara's life and learns all about a dead sister (whose necklace is Sara's Most Important Possession — huh, wonder if that comes back in the plot) and ex-boyfriend, who wants her back. Because Rebecca's from here (here being Los Angeles, I think) and Sara's new in town, Rebecca shows Sara all the hot spots and the two become fast besties. Or at least Rebecca's generic-version-of-Facebook page says they're besties. Sara thinks that's kind of fast, and remarks as much to the boy, Stephen (Cam Gigandet, a very poor man's Hayden Christensen — twice as annoying but without the "charm"), she also met the first night at school and who, about halfway into the semester, she thinks about moving in with.

After Rebecca all but spells out "I am crazy" with clippings of her hair, Sara starts to catch on that something might not be quite right with her roommate. Is...is she, do you think she could be dangerous?

Ooo! The suspense is killing me!

Actually, maybe *The Suspense* is the name of the cold I had causing sinus pain and coughing while I was watching the movie. It would make sense, as *The Suspense* was not involved in the movie itself and had time to do other things. Would my sinus pressure go away? That was kind of suspenseful — dun dun dun! Maybe other people suddenly had hangnails, or a weird pain in their elbow. What's going on? Will it end? Ah, you got me, *The Roommate*!

There isn't a single scary or unexpected thing that happens during this alleged horror movie. But while it is scare-free, what it does have is the schlocky entertainment value of watching Meester seduce some skeezy teacher or stab somebody full in the chest. Meester takes to this role with vigor. She is so delightfully, campily great at being a catty villain that I hope she deeply enjoyed this. Nothing about this role is going to convince some director "hey, that *Gossip Girl* chick's got range; let's put her in *Winter's Bone 2*." This one was all for her, for her and, I'm hoping, a very big paycheck.

When, in like a week and a half, this movie hits the DVD shelves, I strongly recommend renting it, buying copious amounts of intoxicating beverage and coming up with one hell of a great drinking game. **C**

Rated PG-13 for violence and menace, sexual content, some language and partying. Directed by Christian E. Christiansen and written by Sonny Mallhi, The Roommate is an hour and 33 minutes long and distributed in wide release by Screen Gems.

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• **Winter's Bone** (R, 2010) Thurs., Feb. 10, at 5:30 p.m.
• **Blue Valentine** (R, 2010) Fri., Feb. 11, through Sun., Feb. 13, at 12:45, 3:30, 6:15 & 8:50 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 14, through Thurs., Feb. 17, at 2:05, 5:40 & 8:05 p.m.
• **Oscar Shorts** — Short films nominated for the Academy Awards shown in two blocks, animated and live action. Opens Fri., Feb. 11. Animation: Fri., Feb. 11, at 1 & 4:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 12, at 2, 5:30 & 9 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 14, through Thurs., Feb. 17, at 2:10 & 5:30 p.m. Live Action: Fri., Feb. 11, at 2:35 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 12, at 3:35 & 7:05 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 14, through Thurs., Feb. 17, at 7:05 p.m.
• **What Is Permaculture?** (NR, 2010) Fri., Feb. 11, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 12, at 1 p.m.
• **Moonstruck** (PG, 1987) Sun., Feb. 13, at 3 & 5:30 p.m.
• **RED CARPET** Red River Theatres' third annual Red Carpet event will be on Sun., Feb. 27 (the night of the Academy Awards). Attendees are invited to dress up Hollywood-style and walk the red carpet into the theaters where they can watch the award show live on the big screens, enjoy some live music and food from local restaurants and take part in movie trivia and other fun. Tickets purchased before Jan. 25 cost \$50 per person. (After that, tickets cost \$60 in advance, \$75 on the day of the event.)

WILTON TOWN HALL

Main Street in Wilton. wilton-townhalltheatre.com or call 654-FILM.
• **The Fighter** (R, 2010) Thurs., Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m.
• **The King's Speech** (R, 2010) Thurs., Feb. 10, through Thurs., Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Plus, Sun., Feb. 13, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.
• **True Grit** (PG-13, 2010) Fri., Feb. 11, through Thurs., Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Plus, Sun., Feb. 13, at 2 p.m.
• **Topper** (1937) Sat., Feb. 12, at 4:30 p.m.
• **7th Heaven** (1927) Sun., Feb. 13, at 4:30 p.m. Silent film with live music accompaniment.

FRANCO-AMERICAN CENTRE

52 Concord St., Manchester, 669-

4045, francoamericancentrenh.com
• **Le battement d'ailes du papillon** (2000, French with English subtitles) Tues., Feb. 15, at 7 p.m.

PALACE THEATRE

80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, www.palacetheatre.org
Silent movie screenings will feature live music by Jeff Rapsis. Admission costs \$8 per person.
• **Metropolis** (1927) Mon., April 4, at 7 p.m.
• **Sadie Thompson** (1928) Monday, May 16, at 7 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, www.manchester.lib.nh.us
• **Pirates of Penzance** (G, 1983) Wed., Feb. 16, at 1 p.m.
• **The Last Airbender** (PG, 2010) Tues., Feb. 22, at 4 p.m.
• **The Indian in the Cupboard** (PG, 1995) Wed., Feb. 23, at 1 p.m.

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, www.nashualibrary.org. Call 589-4646 for the library's film line, a schedule of upcoming movies. Films subject to change. Seating is limited. Food and drink are not permitted in the theater.
• **For Colored Girls** (R, 2010) Fri., Feb. 11, at 7 p.m.
• **The Princess and The Frog** (G, 2009) Sat., Feb. 12, at 2 p.m.
• **Invictus** (PG-13, 2009) Tues., Feb. 15, at 7 p.m.
• **Waiting for Superman** (PG, 2010) Fri., Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.
• **Alpha and Omega** (PG, 2010) Sat., Feb. 19, at 2 p.m.
• **Basquiat** (R, 1996) Sun., Feb. 20, at 2 p.m.
• **Get Low** (PG-13, 2010) Fri., Feb. 25, at 7 p.m.
• **Megamind** (PG, 2010) Sat., Feb. 26, at 2 p.m.

POLLARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

401 Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass., 978-970-4120, www.pollardml.org
• **Independent film night** on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Films are not rated.
• **Nurse. Fighter. Boy.** (NR), Thurs., Feb. 10, at 6:30 p.m.

THE MUSIC HALL

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, www.themusichall.org
• **The Social Network** (PG-13, 2010) Thurs., Feb. 10, at 7 p.m.
• **Despicable Me** (PG, 2010) Sun., Feb. 13, at 2 p.m.
• **I Love You Phillip Morris** (R, 2010) Sun., Feb. 13, and Tues., Feb. 15, at 7 p.m.
• **Love Actually** (R, 2003) Mon., Feb. 14, at 7 p.m.
• **Banff Mountain Film Festival**

Wed., Feb. 16, at 7 p.m.
• **Made in Dagenham** (R, 2010) Fri., Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 20, at 2 & 7 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 21, through Wed., Feb. 23, at 7 p.m.

COLBY-SAWYER COLLEGE

541 Main St. in New London, 526-3000, www.colby-sawyer.edu
• **The Freshest Kids — A History of the B-Boy** (documentary) on Tues., Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. in Wheeler Hall, Ware Campus Center.
• **Citizen King** (documentary about Martin Luther King Jr.) on Tues., Feb. 22, at 7:15 p.m.
• **The Blind Side** (PG-13, 2009) Mon., Feb. 28, at 7 p.m.

NEW ENGLAND LANGUAGE CENTER

16 Hillside Drive, Rochester, 332-2255
• **Friday night Russian movie discussion** is held the third Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the language center. Russian movies with English subtitles will be shown and followed by discussion and Russian tea. The event is free; register by calling Marina Forbes at 332-2255 or e-mailing marina@anylanguage.org. Upcoming films are:
• **Brother** (1998) Fri., Feb. 18, at 6:30 p.m.
• **The Cranes Are Flying** (1960) Fri., March 18, at 6:30 p.m.

NEWBURYPORT SCREENING ROOM

82 State St., Newburyport, Mass., 978-462-3456, www.newburyportmovies.com
• **Tiny Furniture** (NR, 2010) Thurs., Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Somewhere** (R, 2010) Fri., Feb. 11, at 6:30 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 12, at 4:15, 6:30 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 13, at 5:15 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 14, through Thurs., Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

OTHER

• **BOSTON SCIENCE FICTION FILM FESTIVAL** put on by NH-based film critic Garen Daly will begin on Fri., Feb. 11, at Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square in Somerville, with a festival featuring new films, short films and more. On Sun., Feb. 20, & Mon., Feb. 21, the festival will conclude with a 24-hour sci-fi movie marathon. Tickets for the whole festival are \$80, tickets for the marathon only cost \$55. See www.bostonsci-fi.com.
• **SILENT FILM** at Grace Episcopal Church, 106 Lowell St. in Manchester, 622-9813, on Sun., Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m. Two short comedies and music by Jeff Rapsis. Free.
• **SUNDAY AFTERNOON MATINEES** at the Massabesic Audubon Center (26 Audubon Way, Amherst, 668-2045, nhaudubon.org) every Sunday, 1 p.m.

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Cary Grant, Constance Bennett, Roland Young And Billie Burke in the screwball-comedy “**TOPPER**” (1937)
Sat 4:30pm – free admission – donations to charity

SUNDAY .. Janet Gaynor the 1st Best Actress Oscar
A 1927 Silent romance “**SEVENTH HEAVEN**”
Live music by Jeff Rapsis – Sun 4:30pm – free admission

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February 11 - 17

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Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 2:05, 5:40, 8:05

THE KING'S SPEECH (R/2010/118 min.)
Fri, Sat, Sun: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:40
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 2:00, 5:25, 8:00

OSCAR NOMINATED SHORTS: ANIMATED (NR/2010/85 min.)
In the Screening Room
Fri: 1:00, 4:30 Sat: 2:00, 5:30, 9:00 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 2:10, 5:30

OSCAR NOMINATED SHORTS: LIVE ACTION (NR/2010/106 min.)
In the Screening Room
Fri: 2:35, Sat: 3:35, 7:05 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 7:05

WHAT IS PERMACULTURE? (NR/2010/45 min.)
In the Screening Room
Fri: 7:00, Sat: 1:00

MOONSTRUCK (PG/1987/102 min.)
In the Screening Room
Feb: 3:00, 5:30

603-224-4600
Film times, descriptions & purchase tickets online at
www.redrivertheatres.com

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NHTI Co-Ed Basketball Clinic
Saturday, February 12, 8:30 – 11:30am
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For grades 3-8. Taught by NHTI Men's Basketball coaches and players. Price: \$25 preregistered, \$35 at the door. Groups of 6 or more are \$20/child. Limited to 60 children per session. For details and registration form visit www.nhti.edu/documents/bballreg.pdf. Contact Paul Hogan, 271-6426 or phogan@ccshn.edu.

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HIPPO NITE

BARS, CLUBS, BANDS AND OTHER AFTER-DARK AMUSEMENTS

Nite Roundup

Local music
& nightlife news

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

• **Bout time:** The Heartbreaker's Ball fundraiser for New Hampshire Roller Derby is pajama themed, with all money going to help the league get from bout to bout — bet you thought they just used their skates. The event features a DJ, food, and members of NHRD wandering around in their jammies. Attend the NHRD Heartbreaker's Ball on Friday, Feb. 11, at 8 p.m. at The Yard restaurant, 1211 Mammoth Road in Manchester. Tickets cost \$5 if you're wearing pajamas, \$7 if not (21+). Go to www.nhrd.com.

• **Sentimental journey:** Featuring sweet three-part harmonies and sophisticated piano, guitar and upright bass interplay, Swing a Cat revives the jazzy side of the swing era. The trio's Great American Songbook includes everyone from Hoagy Carmichael to Ray Charles. This weekend's appearance is at a quaint eatery overlooking the Contoocook River, so maybe they'll play "Room with a View." See Swing a Cat on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 8 p.m. at Daniel's Restaurant, 48 Main St. in Henniker. For more, call 428-7621.

• **Rebel yell:** For an early taste of summer, check out Southern Breeze paying tribute to Lynyrd Skynyrd and Molly Hatchet. Suddenly, Bike Week doesn't seem so far away. The five-piece band is already booked for three appearances at the June event, but for now they're playing local shows like this Concord restaurant, known for lobster feasts. See Southern Breeze on Friday, Feb. 11, at Makris Lobster & Steakhouse, 354 Sheep Davis Road in Concord. Go to www.eatalobster.com.

• **Crack up for a cause:** Comic Mike McDonald writes a column for the Green Bay Packers' fan magazine; after Sunday's Super Bowl win, he should be in good spirits for his 10th annual fundraiser in Portsmouth, featuring three top-notch stand-ups, including Manchester rising star Matt D. Also appearing are Joe Wong and Second City veteran Ken Rogerson. Attend the Tenth Annual Comedy Xtravaganza on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 8 p.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St. in Portsmouth. Tickets are \$34 & \$37 at www.themusic hall.org.

• **One month to St. Pat's:** Those who view Valentine's Day as just another St. Patrick's Day marker should enjoy Revels Glen, booked every Wednesday through the end of March at one of Nashua's favorite Irish pubs. Two guitarists and a djembe player, the Emerald Island exports are also slotted to play all day on March 17 at the Peddler's Daughter, which makes complete sense. See Revels Glen on Wednesday, Feb. 16, at the Peddler's Daughter, 48 Main St. in Nashua, www.thepeddlersdaughter.com.

Cupid's nightlife

Rock, swing, jazz, laugh and sing to your heart's content

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

With Valentine's Day happening on a Monday, most area venues are planning events from Friday through Sunday, though there are a handful on the big day itself. So it's a love weekend for the smitten and committed, the yearning and resigned. Advance booking is always a good idea, but since it's so close to the date, here are four days' worth of options, offered with the hope that something's bound to be open.

Friday, Feb. 11

• Enjoy a sweetheart dinner for two, available all weekend, or experience brunch on Sunday at **Alan's** (133 N. Main St. in Boscawen, 753-6631) — Jim Hollis plays at 9 p.m. Friday, music Saturday TBA.

• A Latin Valentine's dance includes a wide selection of grilled meats and a top area Salsa band at **Gauche's Churrascaria Brazilian Steak House** (62 Lowell St. in Manchester, 669-9460) as Grupo Fantasia performs at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$29.95 with dinner, \$10 for the dance only.

Saturday, Feb. 12

• Grupo Fantasia DJ Angel hosts a Salsa Dance Party with Cumbia, Vallenato, Salsa, Merengue, Mambo and other Latin rhythms at **48 Below** (55 Water St. in Exeter, 772-2222) starting at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

• The Keene Jazz Orchestra leads "All That Jazz," an event also featuring performances from Milford High School students, along with hors d'oeuvres, beverages and desserts, at **Amato Center for Performing Arts** (56 Mont Vernon St. in Milford, 673-4201 x3154) at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 (\$10 for kids).

• For those craving the opposite of the soft touch, look no further than **The Amber Room** (53 High St. in Nashua, www.amber-roomnightlife.com) which hosts British heavy metal veterans Raven and In Harm's Way at noon. Tickets are \$20.

• Enjoy classic rock and R&B with the Bert Scott Band performing at **American Legion Post 51** (Route 125 in Epping, 679-8320) beginning at 8 p.m. There's a cash bar and tickets are \$6.

• A big hardwood dance floor will accommodate all types of dancing when The Tom Dixon Band plays country music at **Brookline Event Center** (35 Proctor Hill Road, Route 130 in Brookline, 673-4474) at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

• A full sit-down dinner, cash bar, music, dancing and live entertainment will benefit Southern New Hampshire Youth Ballet at **Castleton Banquet and Conference Center** (92 Indian Rock Road in Windham, 625-9272) with a Valentine Gala & Benefit Auction at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$50.

• Get down with the Mighty Bad Habits and Soul Alley at **The Jam Factory** (1211 Elm St. in Manchester, 203-1458) at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$5.

• Enjoy comedy from Steve Guilmette, Tom Hayes and Jody Sloane at **Killar-**

ney's at Holiday Inn & Suites (9 Northeastern Blvd. in Nashua, 888-1551), with music later by the Risen. A \$119 Love, Laughs & Luxury package covers room (with champagne and strawberries) and dinner for two (\$20/comedy only).

• Swoon when country hit-maker Phil Vassar headlines at **Lowell Memorial Auditorium** (50 East Merrimack St. in Lowell, www.lowellauditorium.com) at 8 p.m. Tickets prices range from \$29.75 to \$55.75.

• Crank it up at a four-band rock show at **Mad Bob's Saloon** (342 Lincoln St. in Manchester, 669-3049) featuring Life & Limb, Steiner Street, Connelly and Building at 9 p.m.

• Conjure up a past love with psychic/medium Lauren Rainbow, who promises "messages from beyond" at **Middle Center for the Arts** (316 Central St. in Franklin, 934-1901) at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$17 to \$20.

• Try a line dance lesson with Jonathan Scott and the Blazing Hearts at **Midnight Rodeo Bar** (1211 S. Mammoth Road in Manchester, 703-8444) at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

• Nimbus 9 draws from pop, hard rock and R&B influences for a soulful sound at **Murphy's Taproom** (494 Elm St. in Manchester, 644-3535) beginning at 9 p.m.

• Jimmy Dunn, Frank Santorelli, Bernadette Pauley and Mike Whitman provide the laughs for Funny Guys, Naughty Girls and Great Sax, an evening of comedy, burlesque and rock & roll at **Palace Theatre** (80 Hanover St. in Manchester, www.palacetheatre.org) at 8 p.m., benefiting the New Hampshire Association for the Blind. The Bliss Burlesque Dancers and Carte Blanche and the Left Bank also appear; tickets are \$30.

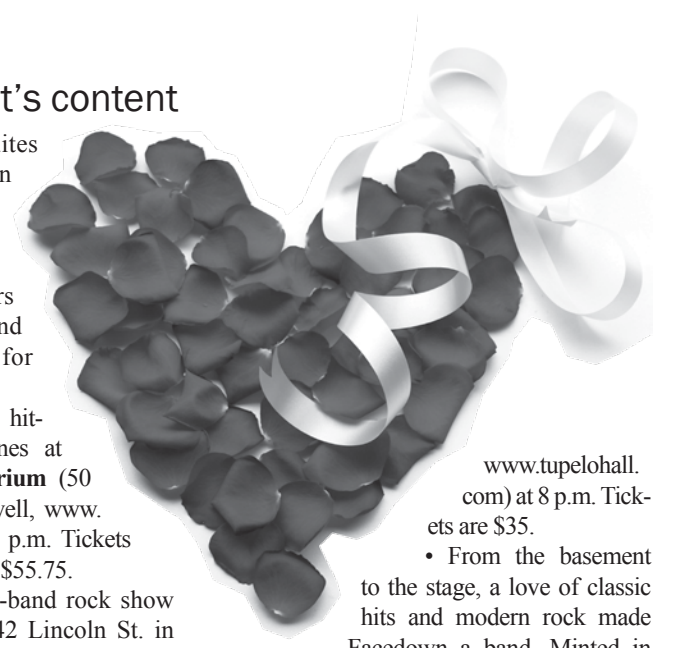
• Old-school soul band Holmes provides booty-shaking motivation at **Penuche's Ale House** (6 Pleasant St. in Concord, 228-9833) beginning at 9 p.m.

• Music from DJ Eric Fletcher and a catered buffet highlight the Valentine's Day Dinner Dance at the Chapel at **Saint Lawrence Parish** (1 East Union St. in Goffstown, 622-3100) beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20.

• Top-notch songwriting talent — host Simón Ríos, Amy Petty and Joe Iadanza — set the mood at a show benefiting Doctors Without Borders at **Simple Gifts Coffeehouse** (UU Church, 58 Lowell St. in Nashua, 882-1091). The Local Performers Showcase starts at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$5.

• The jilted, dumped and just plain cranky are asked to bring bitter breakup poems, love-gone-wrong songs and broken-hearted monologues for Love Gone Bad, a celebration of bad love poetry and prose at **Studio 99** (115 Main St., 3rd floor, in Nashua, 562-5179) starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$3 (BYOB fee \$2).

• Seventies guitar hero Pat Travers, best known for his cover of Little Walter's "Boom Boom Out Go the Lights," headlines **Tupelo Music Hall** (2 Young Road in Londonderry,



www.tupelohall.com) at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$35.

• From the basement to the stage, a love of classic hits and modern rock made Facedown a band. Minted in the 2010 summer party circuit, they play at **Village Trestle** (25 Main St. in Goffstown, 497-8230) starting at 6 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 13

• The New Hampshire Country Music Association presents a Pigeon Forge Benefit at **Circle 9 Ranch** (Windymere Drive in Epsom, www.circle9ranch.com) with The Natalie Turgeon Band at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$10.

• Enjoy a romantic concert with classical guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan, followed by red velvet cupcakes, at **Currier Museum of Art** (150 Ash St. in Manchester, www.currier.org) at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and \$15.

• Jazz and Latin fuse in a beautiful setting at **Dream Farm** (64 Dow Road in Hollis, www.thedreamfarm.org) when the Rodrigo Bonelli Group performs. E-mail info@thedreamfarm.org to attend this invitation-only event.

• Enjoy a romantic movie, the Oscar-winning *Moonstruck* starring Cher as a bookkeeper caught between her safe-as-milk fiancé and his wild younger brother, played by Nicholas Cage, at **Red River Theatres** (11 S. Main St. in Concord, www.redrivertheatres.org). Shows at 3 & 5 p.m. Tickets \$5 to \$8.

• Chill out with Japanese smooth jazz pianist Keiko Matsui at **Tupelo Music Hall** (2 Young Road in Londonderry, www.tupelohall.com) at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35.

• See *Moonstruck* at **Red River Theatres**; bring a ticket stub and receive a 15-percent discount on your meal at **The Barley House** (132 N. Main St. in Concord, 228-6363). Dave Tonkin plays from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Valentine's Day Dinner & Jazz event.

Monday, Feb. 14

• Reservations are required for the 4, 6 and 8 p.m. dinner seatings at **Jewell & the Beanstalk** (793 Somerville St. in Manchester, 624-3709) with music from Alli Beaudry. The event is BYOB.

• Don Severance mixes vocals, guitar riffs and his own studio-recorded beats into a digital loop machine, blending '70s folk rock, jazz and world rhythms for a groove-oriented sound he calls Sevhead at **The Homestead** (641 DW Highway in Merrimack, 744-2022) beginning at 6 p.m.



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KEIKO MATSUI



Sunday, Feb. 13
7:00 p.m.
\$35
RS-Theater

NIGHT OF COMEDY

Artie Januario, Jimmy Walsh & Kristen O'Brien



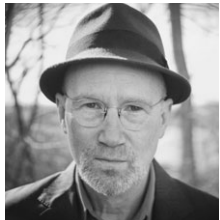
Thursday, February 17
8:00 p.m. • \$17 • RS-Tables

LUCY KAPLANSKY



Friday, Feb. 18
8:00 p.m.
\$27
RS-Tables

MARSHALL CRENSHAW



Saturday, Feb. 19
8:00 p.m.
\$25
RS-Tables

THE FOOLS



Friday, February 25
8:00 p.m. • \$30 • GA

JAMES HUNTER



Saturday, Feb. 26
8:00 p.m.
\$35/\$40
RS-Theater

THE ALTERNATE ROUTES



Sunday, February 27
7:00 p.m. • \$20 • GA

JOHNNY A



Saturday, March 5
8:00 p.m.
\$28
RS-Theater

ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL



Sunday, March 6
7:00 p.m.
\$45/\$50
RS-Theater

JOAN OSBORNE



Saturday, March 12
8:00 p.m.
\$45
RS-Theater

THE RADIATORS FAREWELL TOUR



Thursday, March 17
8:00 p.m. • \$35/\$40 • RS-Theater

THE CELTIC TENORS



Wednesday, March 23
8:00 p.m. • \$35/\$40 • RS-Theater

ASSEMBLY OF DUST



Saturday, March 26
8:00 p.m. • \$25 • RS-Theater

High-energy hootenanny

Acoustic band sparks the Shaskeen

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

On most weekend nights, the downtown Manchester club scene is, in a word, electric. A bluegrass band might seem out of place amidst all the power chords and kick drums, but not Rockspring. The Seacoast acoustic quintet is muscling its way into rock 'n' roll bars with a high-energy mix of originals, high lonesome standards and left-field covers. On Saturday, they'll return to the Shaskeen.

Rockspring draws inspiration from prog-grass groups like the Yonder Mountain String Band and the Gourds (they borrow their remake of Snoop Dogg's "Gin and Juice" for many sets). A band that pushes boundaries, they'll make chestnuts like "Mary Don't You Weep" and "Rollin' in My Sweet Baby's Arms" sound anything but stuffy, and turn surprise covers of "Comfortably Numb" and Morphine's "Cure For Pain" into revelatory rave-ups.

Originally called the Verbs until a trademark issue forced them to pick a new name in 2008, they've undergone personnel changes as well. At one time they were a four-piece with a female fiddler and vocalist. The current lineup consists of Chad Verbeck on guitar, bassist Rob Wright, fiddler Jon Aanestad, Mark Aleo on mandolin and banjo player Kyle Tuttle.

Though possessed of a gonzo spirit, the band plays with polish and sophistication.

"We've all studied our instruments for our life," said Verbeck, noting that two band members are Berklee trained. "We're constantly studying and challenging ourselves, learning and writing new material. We've been writing together as a band for about a year now [and] trying to learn stuff that is entertaining but also unique, that you're not going to hear from any bluegrass or rock 'n' roll cover band."

The band completed an EP in late 2010, but Verbeck says the three-song effort is mainly a calling card for potential demo deals. What they're really about is playing on stage. To that end, they've released a pair of live CDs that they give out at shows, and posted more than a dozen as free downloads on the www.archive.org website.

They will sell EPs if asked, including one made with their original fiddler in 2008, but Verbeck firmly believes the old saying about music wanting to be free: "The giveaway is what has gotten us out there; we have people coming to shows all the time that know our music word for word and say, 'We listen to you guys all the time, we've seen you here and there.' We've got a huge network and it's really great, it's a really organic thing. To use a catch phrase, it's definitely at the grass roots."



Rockspring. Courtesy photo.

Some of the archive.org sets were recorded in listening rooms like the Stone Church in Newmarket and the Press Room in Portsmouth, or at summer festivals like Barnaby's Backyard Bash in southern Vermont, where the band is a mainstay. But more than a few come from wild nights in rowdy bars like the one they're playing this weekend.

"The Shaskeen has been really good to us. We've really built a great following and have a great time playing there," Verbeck says. "Our stuff is very rowdy and raucous, so we definitely get a drinking crowd drinking more and a dancing crowd dancing more. People want to go out and have a really good time; our music fits very well."

In the spring, Verbeck will lead a songwriters' night at Boynton's Taproom that could be a slight departure from the guitar pull gatherings held there recently. "It's going to be absolutely fantastic," says Verbeck. "I'm bringing Jon from Rockspring, Mike Dion, the lead singer from Hot Day at the Zoo, Charlie Christos and Seth Goo-by. All five of us have all shared the stage, and we all consider each other brothers in a certain sense. We love playing together, we enjoy each other's tunes and we know each other's music. But we're also looking forward to bringing some new stuff."

Verbeck agrees that the successful Millyard listening room creates a halo effect for other clubs looking to take more chances with original and non-traditional bands — up to a point.

"I think that there is a little more willingness in Manchester ... but there are also those clubs that are blatantly against it," he says. "There is a great level of support for the blues at the Strange Brew but if you don't play the blues, you don't play there ... but a place like Boynton's is kind of doing its own thing and making some waves [with] really great people and ideas," says Verbeck. "When those two things come together, it really can't be stopped."

Rockspring

Saturday, Feb. 12, at 9 p.m. at The Shaskeen, 909 Elm St., Manchester, www.theshaskeen.com

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060967

A wide range of laughs

Comedy troupe on the go

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Some sketchy people are getting ready to take over a Portsmouth stage — but don't worry, your wallets and purses are safe; all this group wants is to make you laugh.

Sketchy People, an eight-member sketch comedy troupe, will perform at West End Studio Theatre on Friday, Feb. 11, at 8 p.m. and on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 4 and 8 p.m.

The group was formed six months ago by local comics who met through the open-mike and stand-up comedy scene in the Granite State. Their ages range from mid 20s to mid 50s.

"There is nothing else like it around ... and the diversity of ages is amazing — you get the take of a 25-year-old kid and a 55-year-old suburban woman. You don't see that type of show very often with that many voices represented," said group member Doug Blay of Raymond, noting that in New Hampshire it's typically only in college that comics have the opportunity to join a sketch troupe.

Blay thinks the comedy scene in the Granite State continues to grow and he attributes some of that growth to the poor economy.

"I think people can't afford really expensive shows right now and comedy tends to be a little less expensive," he said. "Manchester seems to have started [the increase in comedy shows] with the Shaskeen a few years ago. There are a lot of places now to get our voices out there."

Both Manchester and Plymouth were eyed for the first show, Blay said, as both cities are "really receptive of comedy right now" and are home to many acts.

The older female cast members, he said, seem to be inspired by the humor of Joan Rivers, while the humor of the younger members bears a likeness to that of Daniel Tosh, one of many new-generation comics.

Blay began doing stand-up comedy three years ago at an open mike where many other comics jump-start their careers, at the aforementioned Shaskeen in Manchester.

"It was something I had always wanted to do and I decided it was finally time to do it," Blay said, adding that he now works as an actor, stand-up comic and, when not on stage, a teacher.

Countrywide

Penacook woman heads to Tennessee

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

A local country crooner is on her way to making it big.

Twenty-three-year-old Natalie Turgeon of Penacook will represent the Granite State in March, on stage at the North American Country Music Association International competition in Tennessee. The last six months have been a bit of a whirlwind for Turgeon and her musical career, which only began in late September at a New Hampshire Country Music Association competition at Circle 9 in Epsom.

"The band wasn't all put together at that point, but I thought it wouldn't hurt [to compete]," she said.

She has since been named Top Female



Sketchy People. Courtesy photo.

The eight comics worked together to write their skits. "I think we've been pretty good sort of bouncing things off each other and being respectful of each other if we didn't think something was funny," Blay said.

The PG-13 finished product that will be presented to the group's first audience at the West End Studio Theatre will include skits, improvisation and musical comedy acts.

"We are trying to be a little more creative with the show and give it a little of everything comedy has to offer," Blay said.

Modeled after *Saturday Night Live*, the group's original skits will focus on pop culture, family issues and, because the show will precede Valentine's Day, dating through the generations. Another skit will not be a stretch for Blay, as it will be a mock parent-teacher conference, and one musical number is slated to be about Miley Cyrus and the exploitation of young pop singers by their parents, Blay said. The improvisation will include some crowd participation.

"I think the fun part of improv is that people, in general, are funny," Blay said. "You never know what they're going to say and you have to be really fast on your feet. It's the thinking part of comedy."

Sketchy People

When: Friday, Feb. 11, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 12, at 4 and 8 p.m.

Where: West End Studio Theatre at the Pontine, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth, 436-6660

Tickets: \$10 for the 8 p.m. shows, \$8 for the Saturday 4 p.m. show, can be purchased at the door or at www.brownpapertickets.com.

Info: www.dougblay.com/sketchy-people

Vocalist in both New Hampshire and New England. "I was surprised because I am very new to it," Turgeon said of receiving two major accolades.

Turgeon, who nannies and works for a cleaning business, said the idea to pursue a career in music came as a suggestion from her fiancé and future in-laws.

"They said, 'You can't find anything you like, but you love singing, just trying singing,'" she said. "I said I guess I would try and go for it."

Although at age 11 she enjoyed listening to Shania Twain, Turgeon said she really began to appreciate country music only a few years ago. She now notes country stars Carrie Underwood, Miranda Lambert and Martina McBride as her biggest influences.

After singing in church choirs throughout

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the years, Turgeon came to realize that the tone of country music best suited her voice.

"Country music is natural for me; pop was never my thing," she said.

At the competition in March she plans to sing "Turn on the Radio" by Reba McEntyre, a song she hears one of the triplets she babysits for belt out every now and then ("It's the funniest thing," she said).

Turgeon recently started working with a full band, which she said is writing original songs for her to sing. While most of the band members were found through Craigslist, her future father-in-law serves as the band's lead guitarist. He "always wanted to do the band thing.... When he got a little older he tried a few bands but they weren't for him, so he stopped, but he always had the dream to do it," Turgeon said. "He tells me every day that the band originally formed to support me and my career and I can do whatever I want, if I decide not to have it, if I don't want him in the band, he is just very supportive and at the same time he loves it — it's fun for him."

"I couldn't ask for a better band," she continued. "They're respectful, down to earth and I'm very happy with them."

For now, Turgeon and her band will continue to write original songs, develop a set list and try to book a few local shows, but Turgeon has bigger plans for the group.

"I don't want to become a bar band, but I want to practice and get out there, do gigs twice



Natalie Turgeon. Courtesy photo.

a month or something like that, and produce an original CD — the sky is the limit," she said.

Turgeon and her band were recently entered into the Dodge Ram Battle of the Bands competition, which required the group to record a song and film a music video. The winner of the competition will open for the Zac Brown Band. Voting is open until Feb. 13 (ramzone.com).

The Natalie Turgeon Band

will perform at the NHCMA Pigeon Forge Benefit, Circle 9 Ranch, 39 Windymere Drive, Epsom, on Sunday, Feb. 13, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$7. All proceeds will be put toward travel expenses for Turgeon and other NHCMA bands that have qualified for the North American Country Music Association competition in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

CONCERTS

Venues

Capitol Center for the Performing Arts

44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com

The Colonial Theatre

95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org

Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College

100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/DANA/

Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom

169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com

Leddy Center

38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, ledlycenter.org

Lowell Memorial Auditorium

East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com

The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center

316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddlenh.org

The Music Hall

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org

The Old Meeting House,

1 New Boston Rd., Franconstown

Palace Theatre

80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

Rochester Opera House

31 Wakefield St., Rochester 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com

Stockbridge Theatre

Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com

Tupelo Music Hall

2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com

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128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, www.whittcenter.com

• **The Matt Stubs Band with Sax Gordon** Fri., Feb. 11, at 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **The Legendary Drifters** Fri., Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m., Palace

• **Jane Monheit** Fri., Feb. 11, at 8 p.m., The Music Hall

• **Pat Travers Band** Sat., Feb. 12, at 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Phil Vassar** Sat., Feb. 12, at 8

p.m., Lowell Auditorium

• **Keiko Matsui** Sun., Feb. 13, at 7 p.m., Tupelo

• **Ed Gerhard** Sun., Feb. 13, at 7 p.m., Seacoast Repertory Theatre

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Smashing Puzzles— RockandRollCrosswords.com by Todd Santos

- Across
1. ‘Undertow’ band

5. Queen ‘Seven ___ Of Rhye’

9. Randy Travis ‘Pick Up The ___ And Row’

13. Hillsong United ‘Shout ___ God’

14. ___ Me Up

15. Hole ‘Celebrity ___’

16. Traffic ‘Rock And Roll ___’

17. More upscale venue

18. Drummer Torres

19. Haiti earthquake relief album (4,3,5,3)

22. Warren Zevon ‘Rub Me ___’

23. Not Rolling Stone

24. Rapper Darryl McDaniels

27. Long-running UK mag (abbr)

29. Classic ‘94 punk album

32. Musical gift

33. Irish softrock queen Brennan

36. ___ James

37. Skid Row ‘Down ___ (4,11)’

42. Peppers ‘___ Tissue’

43. Ozzy’s “sail across the ocean”, perhaps (abbr)

44. Lower-case spelled jam band

45. Kasabian ‘Beneficial ___’

47. Influential 80s hardcore label

49. John Lydon band (abbr)

50. What drummer does

52. Beck’s ‘Change’

54. Mellon Collie And The ___ (8,7)

62. Any day now Tanya Tucker song?

63. Fleetwood Mac ‘Red ___’

64. Have to after Weezer’s ‘Undone’?

65. ___ Justice

66. Wanting Buzzcocks song? (1,4)

67. ‘Throwing Copper’ band

68. R&Bers Ruff ___

69. Duration of contract

70. Schlesinger that James Iha owns Scratchie label with

On A Tree ___’

31. Finnish hair metalers ___ Rocks

34. Goes with the fist pump

35. The “fine” things stars can afford

38. Dance music icon Ray

39. R&B/Soul spinoff genre

40. Pearl Jam’s Stone

41. ___ Amitri

46. Smells Like Teen ___

48. The Nuge, or Uncle ___

51. Gossard of Pearl Jam

53. Ozzfest ‘Steep Trails’ band

54. Who ‘Live At The ___ Of Wight Festival 1970’

55. The Jam ‘Tonight At ___’

56. Like some concert memories

57. Mellancamp ‘Now More Than ___’

58. ‘Bad As They ___’ Hayden

59. ‘In The Region Of The Summer Stars’ band

60. Smashing Pumpkins ‘Gish’ single

61. Static-X song for cells?

Down

1. ZZ Top ‘Fandango’ hit
2. Devildriver ‘Bear Witness ___’
3. LA heavy metal band
4. Better seat level
5. Beverly Hills Cop hit ‘___ It Up’
6. Dead ‘They Love ___ Other’
7. Backstage locales
8. What Adam Ant fan does?
9. Constantly repeated pattern
10. Similar bands
11. ___ Suave
12. What made Sabbath blind
14. Members of Snowman?
20. Band devotee
21. Elliot Smith ‘First ___’
24. Label ___ Jam
25. ‘Cry’ singer Kym
26. Legendary sing/songer Jim
28. Sundays ‘Here’s Where The Story ___’
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John Waite set out to rock on “Rough & Tumble,” which will be his first new studio album in four years when it’s released on Feb. 22. And he’s pleased to say that’s what he accomplished on the 11-song set.

“Coming off the back of the live album [this year’s ‘In Real Time’], there was a certain edginess and an almost punk energy that I’ve missed for a while,” Waite tells Billboard.com. “As I look around me, everybody’s so produced. They’re on stage playing along to tapes. They don’t care. Rock ‘n’ roll seems to be on vacation. I don’t like studio-manicured things. I like imperfection.”

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Barnstead Barnstead Music Hall 96 Maple St., 269-2000	Dover American Legion Post 8 640 Central Ave. Barley Pub 328 Central Ave., 742-4226 Dover Elks Lodge 282 Durham Road Dover Bowl 887 Central Ave., 742-9632 Dover Brick House 2 Orchard St., 749-3838 11th Frame Bar 887 B Central Ave., 742-9632 Fury's Publick House 312 DW Highway, 617-3633 Jimmy's Sports Bar 15 Mechanic St., 740-4477 Kelley's Row 421 Central Ave., 750-7081 The Loft at Stafford Farms 58 Route 108, 743-3045	Hampton Boardwalk Inn 139 Ocean Blvd., 929-7400 Breakers By the Sea 409 Ocean Blvd, 926-7702 La Bec Rouge 73 Ocean Blvd, 926-5050 Old Salt 409 Lafayette Rd, 926-8322 Sea Shell Stage on Ocean Blvd. Ron's Landing 379 Ocean Blvd, 929-2122, Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave., 926-6954 Whales Tales 169 Ocean Blvd, 967-4771	Londonderry Coach Stop Restaurant and Tavern 176 Mammoth Rd, 437-2022 Mayflower Grange 535 Mammoth Rd, 867-3077 Stumble Inn Bar & Grill 20 Rockingham Road Whippersnappers 44 Nashua Road, 434-2660	Nashua The Amber Room 53 High St., 881-9060 Boston Billiard Club 55 Northeastern Blvd., 595-2121 The Bounty Holiday Inn, 9 Northeastern Blvd., 800-230-4134 Club Social 45 Pine St., 889-9838 Country Tavern 452 Amherst St., 889-5871 Estabrook Grill 57 Palm St., 943-5035 Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St., 577-9015 Gate City Pub 56 Canal St., 598-8256 Haluwa Lounge Nashua Mall, 883-6662 Killarney's Irish Pub Holiday Inn, 888-1551 Lafayette Club 34 High St, 889-9860 Laureano Nightclub 245 Main St. Martha's Exchange 185 Main St., 883-8781 Michael Timothy's 212 Main St., 595-9334 Nashua Garden 121 Main St., 886-7363 Old Amsterdam Bar 8 Temple St., 204-5501 The Peddler's Daughter 48 Main St., 880-8686 Penuche's Ale House 4 Canal St., 595-9831 Pine Street Eatery 136 Pine St., 886-3501	Newton Hen House Sports Bar & Grill 85 S. Main St., 382-1705	Pelham Shooters Billiards & Lounge 116 Bridge St., 635-3577	Salem Black Water Grill 43 Pelham Road, 328-9013 Jocelyn's Lounge 355 S. Broadway, 870-0045 Maggie May's 326 S. Broadway, 893-4055 Sayde's Restaurant 136 Cluff Crossing Rd, 890-1032 The Varsity Club 67 Main St., 898-4344
Bedford Slammers 547 Donald St., 668-2120	Durham Acorns Restaurant 15 Stafford Ave., 862-2815	Henniker Daniel's Main St., 428-7621 Pat's Peak Sled Pub 24 Flander's Road, 888-728-7732 The Henniker Junction 24 Weare Rd., 428-8511	Loudon Graverobbers Coffehouse Loudon Congregational Church, 7018 Church St., 783-9478	Milford The Homestead 641 DW Highway, 429-2022 Jade Dragon 515 DW Highway, 424-2280	New Boston Gravity Tavern 35 Mont Vernon Rd, 487-2011	Newmarket Lamprey River Tavern 110 Main St., 659-3696 KJ's Sports Bar N. Main St., 659-2329 Stone Church 5 Granite St., 292-3546	Raymond Famous Legends Bar & Grill at Strikers East 4 Essex Drive Freetown Yankee Market 58 Route 27, 895-3418
Belmont The Lodge at Belmont Route 106, 877-872-2501 Top of the Town 88 Ladd Hill Rd, 528-3244 Vineyards Restaurant 171 DW Highway	Epsom Circle 9 Ranch Windymere Dr., 736-9656	Hillsborough American Legion Post 59 538 West Main St Boomerang's 37 Henniker St., 464-3912 Mr. Bill's Saloon 55 Henniker St.,	Manchester 900 Degrees 50 Dow St., 641-0900 American Legion Wm H Jutras & Post No 43 56 Boutwell St., 623-9467 American Legion Post #79 35 W. Brook St. American Legion Sweeney Post 251 Maple St., 623-9145 Black Brimmer 1087 Elm St., 669-5523 Bo's Riverside 500 Commercial St,625-4444 Boynton's Taproom 155 Dow St., 623-7778 Breezeway Pub 14 Pearl St., 621-9111 City Sports Grille 216 Maple St., 625-9656 Club 313	Merrimack The Homestead 641 DW Highway, 429-2022 Jade Dragon 515 DW Highway, 424-2280	Newton Hen House Sports Bar & Grill 85 S. Main St., 382-1705	Pelham Shooters Billiards & Lounge 116 Bridge St., 635-3577	Salem Black Water Grill 43 Pelham Road, 328-9013 Jocelyn's Lounge 355 S. Broadway, 870-0045 Maggie May's 326 S. Broadway, 893-4055 Sayde's Restaurant 136 Cluff Crossing Rd, 890-1032 The Varsity Club 67 Main St., 898-4344
Boscawen Alan's 133 N. Main St., 753-6631	Henderson's Pickin' Parlor 179 Raymond Rd, 483-5001	Hollis Alpine Grove 19 S. Depot Rd, 882-9051	Manchestera Cactus Jack's: Matt Tellier	Milford Pasta Loft : Brett Wilson & Friends	Newton Hen House: acoustic open mike w/ John Porazinski	Pelham Shooters Billiards & Lounge 116 Bridge St., 635-3577	Salem Black Water Grill 43 Pelham Road, 328-9013 Jocelyn's Lounge 355 S. Broadway, 870-0045 Maggie May's 326 S. Broadway, 893-4055 Sayde's Restaurant 136 Cluff Crossing Rd, 890-1032 The Varsity Club 67 Main St., 898-4344
Brookline The Loft at the Grange 12 Main St., 315-9423	RJ's 83 Washington St. Roger's Pizza 869 Central Ave., 742-9870 Station House 11 Fourth St., 743-4489 Top of the Chop One Orchard St., 740-0006	Hooksett Asian Breeze 1328 Hooksett Rd, 621-9298	Laconia Cactus Jack's: Matt Tellier	Merrimack The Homestead : Tony Santesse	Newton Hen House: acoustic open mike w/ John Porazinski	Pelham Shooters Billiards & Lounge 116 Bridge St., 635-3577	Salem Black Water Grill 43 Pelham Road, 328-9013 Jocelyn's Lounge 355 S. Broadway, 870-0045 Maggie May's 326 S. Broadway, 893-4055 Sayde's Restaurant 136 Cluff Crossing Rd, 890-1032 The Varsity Club 67 Main St., 898-4344
Candia Henderson's Pickin' Parlor 179 Raymond Rd, 483-5001	Epping American Legion 232 Calef Hwy. (Rt. 125) Holy Grail Food & Spirits 64 Main St., 679-9559	Hudson Johnny's Pizzeria Route 102, 943-5382 King's Court 222 Central St., 821-5100 Linda's Sport Bar 2B Burnham Rd, 886-0792	Laconia Cactus Jack's: Matt Tellier	Merrimack The Homestead : Tony Santesse	Newton Hen House: acoustic open mike w/ John Porazinski	Pelham Shooters Billiards & Lounge 116 Bridge St., 635-3577	Salem Black Water Grill 43 Pelham Road, 328-9013 Jocelyn's Lounge 355 S. Broadway, 870-0045 Maggie May's 326 S. Broadway, 893-4055 Sayde's Restaurant 136 Cluff Crossing Rd, 890-1032 The Varsity Club 67 Main St., 898-4344
Concord The Barley House 132 N. Main St., 228-6363 Beijing & Tokyo 61 S. Main St., 228-0888 Green Martini 6 Pleasant St., 223-6672 Hermanos 11 Hills Ave., 224-5669 Loudon Road Restaurant and Pit Road Lounge 388 Loudon Rd, 226-0533 Makris 354 Sheep Davis Rd, 225-7665 Penuche's Ale House 6 Pleasant St., 228-9833 The Red Blazer 72 Manchester St., 224-4101	Epping American Legion 232 Calef Hwy. (Rt. 125) Holy Grail Food & Spirits 64 Main St., 679-9559	Hudson Johnny's Pizzeria Route 102, 943-5382 King's Court 222 Central St., 821-5100 Linda's Sport Bar 2B Burnham Rd, 886-0792	Laconia Cactus Jack's: Matt Tellier	Merrimack The Homestead : Tony Santesse	Newton Hen House: acoustic open mike w/ John Porazinski	Pelham Shooters Billiards & Lounge 116 Bridge St., 635-3577	Salem Black Water Grill 43 Pelham Road, 328-9013 Jocelyn's Lounge 355 S. Broadway, 870-0045 Maggie May's 326 S. Broadway, 893-4055 Sayde's Restaurant 136 Cluff Crossing Rd, 890-1032 The Varsity Club 67 Main St., 898-4344
Concord Green Martini: open mike w/ Steve Naylor Hermanos : Joe Gattuso	Epping American Legion 232 Calef Hwy. (Rt. 125) Holy Grail Food & Spirits 64 Main St., 679-9559	Hudson Johnny's: karaoke w/ Tony Zzz Linda's : open mike w/ Scott Barnett	Laconia Cactus Jack's: Matt Tellier	Merrimack The Homestead : Tony Santesse	Newton Hen House: acoustic open mike w/ John Porazinski	Pelham Shooters Billiards & Lounge 116 Bridge St., 635-3577	Salem Black Water Grill 43 Pelham Road, 328-9013 Jocelyn's Lounge 355 S. Broadway, 870-0045 Maggie May's 326 S. Broadway, 893-4055 Sayde's Restaurant 136 Cluff Crossing Rd, 890-1032 The Varsity Club 67 Main St., 898-4344
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On the scene

**Band members of the world, unite and take over**

Do you have an upcoming show? Make sure that even if the venue doesn't let us know, it gets listed in the Music This Week by sending us updates of your upcoming gigs. Send locations, dates and times for your upcoming shows to music@hippopress.com. Send information by noon on Monday to get listed for the coming week. Or send us links to your regularly updated website or MySpace page.

... or you, with a club...

Does your bar/restaurant/coffeshop frequently host musical performances? Send the information to music@hippopress.com along with your address and phone number so we can get you into the Music This Week. And if you regularly update your website or MySpace page, you can send us those links as well. Get the information in by noon on Monday to make the coming Thursday's paper.

... and if you are a music fan...

If you're out on the scene and see a show at a location not regularly listed in the Music This Week, let us know at music@hippopress.com. Our goal is to give you the most complete live music listings in the region each and every week.

Friday, Feb. 11
Allenstown

Ground Zero: The Sophomore Beat, Directions, Cardinal, The Arcane Comedy

Amherst

Souhegan Christian Church: open mike w/ Music at the Ledge

Bedford

Slammer's: Phoenix

Belmont

Top of the Town: Joe Holiday

Concord

Beijing & Tokyo: karaoke w/ DJ Tom
Green Martini: Crazy Chester
Makris: Southern Breeze
Red Blazer: Randy Arrant
Tandy's: DJ

Dover

Barley Pub: Chris O'Neil
Brick House: Cam Groves, Spouse, Da Rezarekt
Kelley's Row: Living the Dream
RJ's: DJ Big Pez

Epping

Holy Grail: Karen Grenier

Exeter

Shooter's: DJ BiggZ & "D"

Gilford

Patrick's: Jim Devlin Duo

Goffstown

Village Trestle: acoustic jam hosted by John Erlman

Hampstead

Village Square: Cooper's Escape

Kingston

1686 House Tavern: Mike Belkas

In the spotlight

**The Adam Ezra Group**

After opening for big acts such as The Goo Goo Dolls, Guster, John Mayer and Aerosmith, The Adam Ezra Group will headline at The Stone Church, 5 Granite St., Newmarket, on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 9 p.m. The roots/rock band boasts a folk and pop sound and smart lyrics. The band members are committed not only to their music but also to activism and community leadership. Ezra has volunteered for relief efforts in Kosovo and has worked for the environment in South America. The group's next album is slated for release in the fall. Tickets for the 21+ show cost \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.

Laconia

Paradise Beach Club: DJ

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Joel Cage
Whippersnappers: Hypercane

Manchester

Black Brimmer: Jimmy's Down
Cactus Jack's: Steve O
City Sports Grill: Tom Dixon Band
Club 313: DJ Bob, DJ Dave G, karaoke w/ CJ
The Derryfield: Mugsy
Element: karaoke
Fratello's: Marc Apostolides
Jam Factory: Two Words, Slang of Ages, Joe Young
Jillian's: One Down
Johnny Bad's: karaoke w/ DJ Rokkstar
Mulligan's: karaoke
Murphy's: Mama Kicks
Piccola: Mica Grove
Shaskeen: The Stink
Strange Brew: Fatwall Jack

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois, DJ Holy Cow

Merrimack

The Homestead: Sev

Milford

Pasta Loft: Kelly's Heroes, The Shotz

Nashua

Amsterdam: DJ Fody's: Chad LaMarsh
Peddler's Daughter: Pop Farmers
Stella Blu: The Mystics

New Boston

Gravity Tavern: Raising Scarlet

Newmarket

Stone Church: Todo Bien w/ Qwill and The Dejas

Newton

Hen House: DJ

Peterborough

Harlow's Pub: Roots of Creation

Plaistow

The Dugout: DJ Boo
Sad Cafe: Silent Stories, Offer Still Stands, Imagine The Escape, Look To The Skies

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: Old Abode
Gas Light Co.: Brian Johnson, DJ Koko P
The Page: DJ
Press Room: Superfrog
Red Door: Face of Fate and Bcap w/ Ryan Obermiller
Rudi's: Duke

Salem

Black Water Grill: Rob Breton
Jocelyn's: DJ

Seabrook

Chop Shop: Avalanche
Honey Pot: DJ

Windham

Jonathon's: karaoke

Saturday, Feb. 12**Allenstown**

Ground Zero: Our Last Night, A Kingdom Dethroned, Sapphira, What Matters Most

Auburn

Holiday's: The Dog-fathers

Belmont

Top of the Town: Joe Holiday

Concord

Barley House: karaoke
Green Martini: Local Blend & Butter
Hermanos: The Swunk Brothers
Penuche's: Holmes
Pit Road Lounge: Phoenix
Tandy's: DJ

Dover

Barley Pub: The Growlers
Brick House: Bigfoot, Sasquatch & the Sick-a-Billys, Wicked Whiskey
Kelley's Row: Rough
RJ's: DJ

Epping

Holy Grail: Old School



KEITH

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FRIDAY 2/11 Mama Kicks

SATURDAY 2/12 Nimbus 9

FRIDAY 2/18 The Hitmen

SATURDAY 2/19 Eric Grant Band

Thursday Night Juke Box. You pick the music.

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12: 2120 S. Michigan Ave. • 13: Tom & John
15: Peter Parcek • 16: Lex and Joe

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060910

NITE

In the spotlight



Heartbreakers

Join the women of New Hampshire Roller Derby at their third annual Heart-breaker's Ball on Friday, Feb. 11, at the Yard Restaurant, 1211 S. Mammoth Road in Manchester. Wear your pajamas to this jammie jam and enjoy food, dancing, contests, prizes and more. The band Acoustic BS will provide music for the event, which is open to the public and will run from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Admission is \$5 to pajama-wearers, \$7 for those not dressed in jammies. For more on the New Hampshire Roller Derby, see www.nhrollerderby.com.

In the spotlight



R-rated hypnotist

Get ready to be hypnotized by Frank Santos Jr. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 8 p.m. In his R-rated comedy show, Santos will put audience members under his spell and encourage them to unleash their hidden "talents," such as singing and dancing. During Santos' fast-paced show, the audience should expect the unexpected. Tickets cost \$22 and may be purchased at the box office, at www.rochesteroperahouse.com or by calling 335-1992.

In the spotlight



An Irish evening

The Makem and Spain Brothers will perform on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. at a night of Irish entertainment to benefit the Ancient Order of Hibernians Bishop Leo E. O'Neil Division of Nashua. The event takes place at the Collings Auditorium of Daniel Webster College in Nashua and will include the New Hampshire AOH bagpipers, the McGonagle School of Irish Dance and Shannachie. Ticket cost \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, and are available at Darrell's Music Hall on Main Street in Nashua, 886-1748; from Larry Patten, 49 Technology Drive in Nashua, 886-0998, and The Irish Cottage, 88 Mall Road, Burlington, Mass, 781-272-1044.

SPARE TIME

Family Fun Center
(formerly Stadium Ten Pin)

City Sports Grille

Sports Bar • Pub-Style Menu

LIVE MUSIC

Fri, Feb. 11
Tom Dixon

Sat, Feb. 12
Under Cover Operators

Strike Up Some Fun At
SPARE TIME
216 Maple St., Manchester 625-9656

067483

Epsom
Circle 9 Ranch: Morgan & Pony Express

Exeter
Shooter's: The Fling

Gilford
Patrick's: Paul War-nick

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: No Big Secret
Route 111 Village Square: Souled Out Show Band, Bent

Hampton
Wally's Pub: Bistro Boys

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Steve Tolley
Whippersnappers: The Hit Men

Manchester
Black Brimmer: Last Laugh
City Sports Grill: Undercover Operators
Club 313: DJ Bob, karaoke w/ CJ
The Derryfield: Triple Tantrum

Fratello's: Marc Apostolides
Jam Factory: The Mighty Bad Habits, Soul Alley
Mad Bob's: Life & Limb, Steiner Street, Building, Background
Murphy's: Nimbus 9
Piccola: Common Knowledge
Rocko's: Tom Clark
Shaskeen: Irish sessions w/ Roger Burrige, Rockspring
Strange Brew: 2120 S. Michigan Ave.

Wild Rover: Nobody's Fault
The Yard: Jonathan Scott and the Blazing Hearts

Mason
Mason Congregational Church: open mike w/ Mike Damery

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Tom Yoder, Mugshot

Merrimack
The Homestead: Joe McDonald

Milford
Malarkey's: Driven
Pasta Loft: Rich Kampu and Bob All-warden

Nashua
Fody's Tavern: One Fine Mess
Milano's Sports Bar: karaoke w/ DJ Bernie D
Peddler's Daughter: Rip Cord
Stella Blu: Tony Gallo Trio

New Boston
Gravity Tavern: Strout

Duo

Newmarket
Stone Church: Adam Ezra Group w/ Gypsy Tailwind

Plaistow
Sad Cafe: Me As Time, The Arcane Comedy, Too Late The Hero, Cavender, Valley Forge, Dallas Higgins

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Local Circus

Gas Light Co.: Aaron Denny, DJ JW
The Page: DJ
Press Room: The Serfs,
Red Door: Night Riders
Rudi's: Jarrod Steer

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Radio Edit

Windham
Jonathon's: karaoke

Sunday, Feb. 13
Concord
Hermanos: State Street Combo
Penuche's: open mike w/ Steve Naylor
Tandy's: karaoke w/ DJ Mark and Kerri

Dover
Barley Pub: Jarrod Steer
Brick House: Tan Vampires, karaoke w/ DJ Erich Kruger
Jimmy's Sports Bar: open mike w/ Denis Patrick & The Gene Sibley Group
RJ's: DJ
Station House: karaoke

Epsom
Circle 9 Ranch: country music jamboree

Goffstown
Village Trestle: blues jam

Hampton
Wally's Pub: Before the Crash

Kingston
Rick's Cafe & Grille: blues and rock open mike w/ Bobby Freedom

Manchester
900 Degrees: blues open mike night w/ Tom Ballerini
Cactus Jack's: Sonic Boomers
Element: karaoke w/ DJ Sharon

Fratello's: Tim Cannon
Johnny Bad's: blues jam w/ The Deep Pockets
Mulligan's: karaoke
Shaskeen: sing-along w/ the Spain Brothers
Strange Brew: Tom Keller and John Medeiros Jr.

Meredith
Giuseppe's Restaurant: open mike w/ Lou Porrazzo

Nashua
Milano's Sports Bar: karaoke w/ DJ Bernie D

Newmarket
Stone Church: open mike w/ Dave Ogden

Portsmouth
Daniel Street Tavern: karaoke
Press Room: Peter Bernstein
Red Door: Green Lion Crew
Rudi's: jazz brunch w/ Sharon Jones, Ben Geyer

Stratham
Acoustic Outfitters: acoustic open mike w/

In the spotlight



Romance dance
Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St. in Manchester, www.queencityballroom.com, will hold a Valentine’s Day reception and dance party on Monday, Feb. 14, from 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 per person and dancers of all levels are welcome. Ballroom, cha-cha, salsa, swing and fox trot with your sweetie.

Ellen Carlson

Monday, Feb. 14
Candia
Henderson’s: electric rock open mike

Concord
Barley House: Dave Tonkin
Hermanos: State Street Combo
Red Blazer: Bob French

Dover
Brick House:
Orchard Street Chop Shop: open mike w/ Dave Ogden

Hampton
La Bec Rouge: open mike w/ Elijah Clark
Wally’s Pub: DJ
Londonderry
Whippersnappers: open mike w/ Gardner Berry

Manchester
Mulligan’s: live band karaoke

Meredith
Camp: acoustic open mike w/ Linden Mazurka
Giuseppe’s: Lou Parrazzo

Merrimack
The Homestead: Sev

Milford
J’s Tavern: acoustic open mike

Portsmouth
Press Room: Sharon Jones
Red Door: Woody Pines
Rudi’s: Mike Effenberger, Nate Therrian

Seabrook
Honey Pot: karaoke

Windham
Jonathon’s: karaoke

Tuesday, Feb. 15
Bedford
Slammer’s: karaoke w/ DJ Robyn

Concord
Barley House: traditional Irish sessions
Hermanos: Scott Solsky

Dover
Brick House: acoustic open mike w/ Anthony Vito Fiandaca
RJ’s: DJ

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: acoustic open mike w/ Mike Belkas

Laconia
The Studio: Chris White Band

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: video DJ

Manchester
900 Degrees: acoustic music
Black Brimmer: DJ Avalon
Element: karaoke w/ DJ Sharon
Murphy’s: open mike w/ Josh Logan, Nate Comp and Paul Costley
Strange Brew: Peter Parcek

Meredith
Giuseppe’s: Michael Bourgeois

Merrimack
The Homestead: Gary Lopez

Milford
J’s Tavern: G Man from Mama Kicks

Nashua
Fody’s: karaoke w/ Mark Allen
Killarney’s Pub: karaoke w/ DJ Bernie D

Portsmouth
Press Room: jazz jam w/ Larry Garland
Red Door: PB Kidd

Seabrook
Honey Pot: open mike

Windham
Jonathon’s: karaoke
Wed., Feb. 16

Antrim
Redneck’s: open mike w/ the Boogiemmen

Auburn
Holiday’s: karaoke w/ DJ Captain Chris

Boscawen
Alan’s: open mike

Concord
Green Martini: open mike w/ Steve Naylor
Hermanos: Rob Wolfe
Tandy’s: karaoke, DJ

Dover
Fury’s: open mike w/ Paul Chase
Three Chimney’s Inn: open mike

Hampton
Wally’s Pub: live karaoke w/ Baked Naked

Hudson
Johnny’s Pizzeria: karaoke w/ Tony Zzz

Kingston
The Carriage Towne Bar & Grille: Mike Belkas

Laconia
Cactus Jack’s: Doug Thompson

Manchester
Black Brimmer: Tom Dixon Band
Fratello’s: Sev
Johnny Bad’s: open mike w/ David Thompson and Steven Devine
Strange Brew: Lex and Joe

Meredith
Giuseppe’s: Justin Jaymes

Merrimack
The Homestead: Doug Mitchell

Milford
J’s Tavern: Lisa from Mama Kicks
Pasta Loft: Morgan and Pete

Nashua
603 Lounge: open mike w/ Kevin Horan
Peddler’s Daughter:
Sausage King: open mike w/ John Borlaug
Stella Blu: Gary Lopez and Dave Gerard
Studio 99: bluegrass jam

Peterborough
Harlow’s Pub: open mike

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid Island Grill: open mike w/ Tom Brown and Duke Mandell
Gaslight Co.: The Orient Express
Press Room: Tom Yoder
Red Door: Red on Red w/ Evaredy
Rudi’s: Dimitri

Seabrook
Chop Shop: karaoke w/ Matty R
Honey Pot: karaoke

Windham
Jonathon’s: karaoke

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Thursday, Feb. 10
Nashua
Fody’s Tavern: Alana Susko

Friday, Feb. 11
Manchester
Boynton’s: Joe List, Tyler Boeh and Millhouse G
West End Studio: Sketchy People

Portsmouth
West End Studio Theatre: Sketchy People w/ Doug Blay, Ellen Moschetto, Chris Camer’n, Matt Kona, Ed Vezina, Michele Mortensen, Nita Dunn and Dottie Parker

Saturday, Feb. 12
Concord
Cap Center: Capitol Steps

Manchester
Palace: Funny Guys, Naughty Girls and Great Sax
West End Studio: Sketchy People

Portsmouth
West End Studio Theatre: Sketchy People w/ Doug Blay, Ellen Moschetto, Chris Camer’n,

Matt Kona, Ed Vezina, Michele Mortensen, Nita Dunn and Dottie Parker

Rochester
Opera House: R-rated hypnosis w/ Frank Santos Jr.

Monday, Feb. 14
Concord
Penuche’s: live standup

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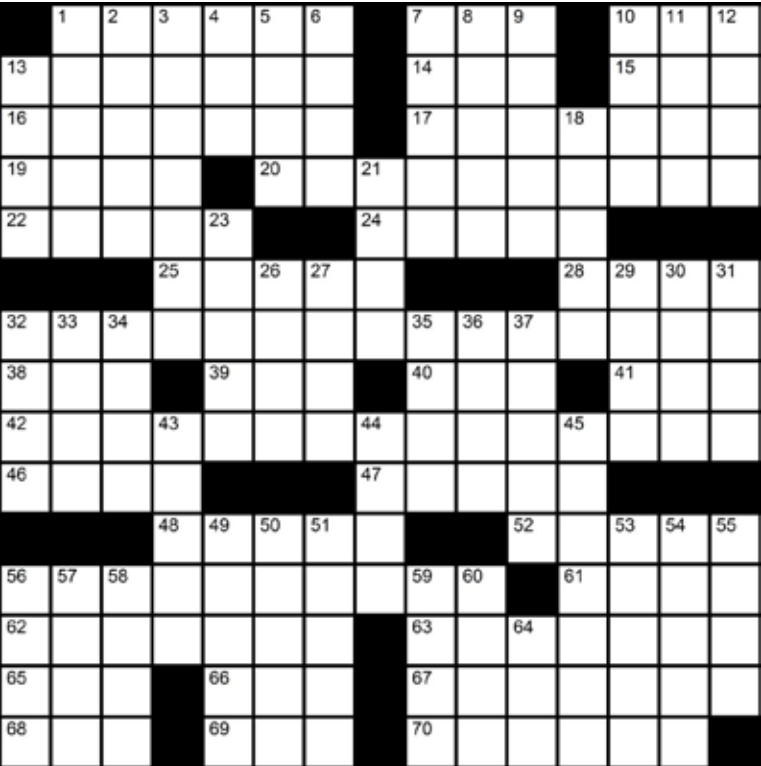
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- Across**
- 1 One who likes to talk
7 Does some unwanted yard redecoration?
10 Feature of some high-tech cell phones
13 Company hawked by Catherine Zeta-Jones
14 “___ you kidding?”
15 Necklace given upon deplanings
16 Another term for it is “elver”
17 He wrote about Mowgli
19 “___ Out of Control” (Tony Danza movie)

20 Morrissey video compilation that translates to “Listen, Steven”
22 “Top Chef” host Lakshmi
24 Joltin’ Joe’s other nickname
25 Addis ___, Ethiopia
28 Actress Summer of “The Cape”
32 Nine-to-five friends
38 “___ been a bad boy”
39 Beatnik interjection
40 River island
- Down**
- 41 1977 role for George Burns
42 It’s heard while leaving a group
46 Unit of loudness
47 R&B group Bell Biv ___
48 Throw back in
52 “Dynasty” actress Emma

56 Grain byproduct used in alternative medicines
61 Modern waltz violinist Andre
62 Square-shaped flyer
63 It usually involves reading letters
65 Suffix for “cyan”
66 “The Girl You Lost to Cocaine” singer
67 Pre-show acts
68 Spider egg container
69 Network advertising “the greatest motion pictures of all time”
70 Cliff Huxtable’s oldest
- 29 Interlockable toy
30 “___ Flux”
31 Arne Duncan’s employer, for short
32 Newton fillers
33 Rachael Ray acronym
34 Kings of ___
35 Fix some potholes
36 “Salt” actor Schreiber
37 Others, in Spanish
43 Leader of The Dominos
44 Old Icelandic saga
45 Like some auto clearance sales
49 Be
50 Upper story
51 It might involve flying or unfamiliar situations
53 Social dance
54 Ben Stiller’s mom Anne
55 Total packages?
56 Diamond stat, incorrectly but commonly
57 Talks like this he does
58 Business big shot
59 Business big shots
60 Wrong letter?
64 Suffix for “velvet”



41 1977 role for George Burns
42 It’s heard while leaving a group
46 Unit of loudness
47 R&B group Bell Biv ___
48 Throw back in
52 “Dynasty” actress Emma

2/3



Down

- 1 Mutual of ___
2 Like Supreme Court judges
3 Lower than low
4 One may attempt to break it
5 Spread across the Eastern seaboard?
6 Depend (on)
7 George of “Star Trek”
8 Rainbow maker
9 Places for some nose piercings, technically

- 10 Silver-tongued
11 Actress Elizabeth in “The Incredibles”
12 Part of ASL
13 Abbr. in a recipe
18 Like pin-up models
21 Cheese in a red rind
23 Mushroom cloud maker
26 Out of the office
27 “Molto ___” (“very good,” in Verona)

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All quotes are from books by Mo Willems, born Feb. 11, 1968.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) “First of all, I’m not even tired. In fact, I’m in the mood for a hot dog party! What do you say?” —the pigeon, *Don’t Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!* It’s a good time to stay up late and host an impromptu party. Unless you have to be at work early, in which case get some shut-eye.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) “I hear there’s a good show about birds on TV tonight. Should be very educational. How about five more minutes? C’mon! What’s five minutes in the grand scheme of things?” —the pigeon, *Don’t Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!* Don’t worry about five minutes.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) “Y’know, we never get to talk anymore. Tell me about your day....” —the pigeon, *Don’t Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!* Ask someone about their day. And tell them about yours. All week. But not necessarily the same person each time. Could be, doesn’t have to be.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) “Oh, hello. How are you? I’m fine. Thanks for asking. By the way, do you know what I want? What I’ve wanted forever...? At least since last Tuesday...? A PUPPY!” —the pigeon, *The Pigeon Wants a Puppy!* Restrain yourself against making impulse purchases.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) “Oh...I get it. You don’t want me to be happy, do you? You don’t want me to take a piggy-

back ride on my puppy! Or play tennis with it! You just don’t understand.” —the pigeon, *The Pigeon Wants a Puppy!* Although it might really seem so, no one is working against your happiness.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) “The others were so busy looking at Wilbur’s socks that no one noticed Grand-pah enter, until he cleared his throat and proclaimed ... ‘Fellow naked mole rats! I had never worn clothes until I heard Wilbur’s simple question: Why not? Why not indeed? Do clothes hurt anyone? No. Are they fun? Well, they may not be for everyone, but this old naked mole rat wishes he had tried getting dressed earlier!’ (Then Grand-pah complimented Wilbur on his socks.)” —*Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed* Compliment someone on their socks, if it’s appropriate. And try getting dressed earlier.

Leo (July 23 – Aug 22) “Trixie turned to her daddy and said, ‘Aggle flaggle Klabble!’ ‘That’s right,’ replied her daddy. ‘We’re going home.’” —*Knuffle Bunny*. Offer help to someone who has been misunderstood, perhaps even by you.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) “I WANT A PUPPY! RIGHT HERE! RIGHT NOW!” —the pigeon, *The Pigeon Wants a Puppy!* Patience is needed.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) “‘Now, please don’t get fussy,’ said her daddy. Well, she had no choice.... Trixie bawled. She went boneless. She did everything she could to show how

unhappy she was. By the time they got home, her daddy was unhappy too.” —*Knuffle Bunny*. Do what you can to make yourself understood, but try not to spread unhappiness, because that’s just going to go around in circles. A little fussiness need not lead to a full-blown tantrum. Use your empathy to help someone else get un-fussy.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) “It’s

HUGE! The teeth! The hair! That wet nose! The slobber! The claws! I mentioned the teeth, right? Really, I had no idea!” —the pigeon, *The Pigeon Wants a Puppy!* See, sometimes what you thought you wanted turns out not to be what you expected. Scale back your desires.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) “Trixie’s daddy looked for *Knuffle Bunny*. And looked...and looked...and looked...

SIGNS OF LIFE

But *Knuffle Bunny* was nowhere to be found.... So Trixie’s daddy decided to look harder.” —*Knuffle Bunny*. Look. Harder. This goes double if you are male.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan 19) “I’ve changed my mind. I want a walrus.” —the pigeon, *The Pigeon Wants a Puppy!* You will need to be flexible and go with the flow. Live and let live. Feel the desire without acting on it.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

9								7
			4		8			
		1		5		6		
	3		5		9		6	
		7				1		
	4		7		3		5	
		4		6		5		
			1		5			
5								3

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

2/10

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SU
DO
KU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Last week's puzzle answers are below

2/3								
8	1	4	6	2	9	3	5	7
9	3	2	8	7	5	6	1	4
6	7	5	3	4	1	8	2	9
3	4	7	5	6	2	9	8	1
5	9	8	7	1	3	2	4	6
2	6	1	4	9	8	5	7	3
4	2	9	1	8	6	7	3	5
1	5	6	2	3	7	4	9	8
7	8	3	9	5	4	1	6	2

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

2/03

the

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Those Ingenious Western Spies!

In January, Saudi officials detained a vulture from Tel Aviv University (part of endangered-species research), calling it a spy and alarming its Israeli handlers that the bird might face a gruesome execution as an espionage agent. Then, a day later, Iran reportedly detained an Arab-American woman crossing its border from Armenia — after discovering a “spy microphone” in her teeth. (A week later, she was allowed to travel to Turkey.) In December, after an Egyptian woman was killed by a shark at a Red Sea resort, the local governor in Egypt accused Israel’s spy agency, Mossad, of releasing “attack sharks” in order to stifle tourism.

Cultural Diversity

• A supposedly centuries-old Korean health treatment — the vaginal steam bath — has become a popular fad recently in Southern California, according to a December Los Angeles Times report. As the client squats on an open-seated stool, vapors of herbs such as wormwood supposedly fight stress, infections, hemorrhoids, infertility and irregular menstrual periods. Thirty minutes’ treatment runs \$20 to \$50, and according to a prominent Beverly Hills gynecologist, the procedure actually could be beneficial.

• Among the don’t-miss tourist attractions in Thailand, according to author Jim Algie’s recent guide (“Bizarre Thailand”): the monkey hospital in Lopbun, where terminal patients are treated with utmost respect (pending, of course, their imminent reincarnation); “Tortoise Town” in Khon Kaen province, where those critters outnumber humans by 4-to-1 and dominate the streets with shell-butting mating-rights competitions; and the Buffalo Head Temple near Bangkok, where the abbot’s pagoda, for some reason, is made of 6,000 water buffalo skulls.

• China’s dynamic economy has created Western-style insecurities, including young women’s anxieties about beauty and self-improvement as they search for employment. Consequently, China has become the world’s third-largest consumer of plastic surgery services — with demand that perhaps challenges the supply of skilled surgeons. Women typically want wider eyes, “sliced” eyelids, narrower noses and jaws, and smaller chins, and both men and women seek height by attempting the painful (and usually unsuccessful) “heel implant” procedure. (A currently popular, less invasive remedy for immediate body streamlining — as when preparing for a job interview — involves ingesting eggs of the ringworm, so that the worm devours food before the stomach can digest it.)

• Every Dec. 24 in Sweden, at 3 p.m., a third to a half of all Swedes sit down to watch the same traditional television program that has marked Christmas for the last 50 years: a lineup of historic Donald Duck cartoons. According to a December report on Slate.com, the show is insinuated in the national psyche because it was the first big holiday program when Swedes began to acquire television sets in 1959. Entire families still watch together, repeating their favorite lines.

Latest Religious Messages

The General Authority of Islamic Affairs and Endowments in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) announced in December that it issued 350,000 “fatwas” in 2010 — not the “death to” fatwas, but rather, Quranic interpretations governing everyday life. (The Authority

ruled last year, for example, that car raffles are bad; that vuvuzelas are acceptable if kept under 100 decibels; that afternoon naps are prohibited because time should be better spent; and that half-sisters may shake hands with their brothers, even if their mother is Christian.)

Latest Cutting-Edge Research

(1) Georgia Tech scientists tested (for an October publication) the “oscillatory shaking” they witnessed by wet mice and various-sized wet dogs as they shook water off — finding an inverse ratio between size and speed, from 27 cycles per second by a mouse to 5.8 by a mid-sized dog. Their original hypothesis was that speed would decrease according to “torso radius,” but they forgot to factor in the length of the animals’ fur. (2) Israeli researchers, writing in the journal Fertility and Sterility, found that women undergoing in vitro fertilization were almost twice as likely to conceive if they had been made to laugh by a hospital “clown” entertaining them as soon as their embryos were implanted.

News That Sounds Like a Joke

(1) When longtime Orange County, Calif., inmate Malcolm King demanded kosher meals and double helpings, jailers resisted, and King went to court. Judge Derek Johnson asked King if his demands were religion-based, and King said yes — citing “Festivus” (a joke holiday popularized on the “Seinfeld” TV show). According to a December Orange County Register report, Judge Johnson approved King’s demands. (2) A 2010 Chicago Tribune public-records examination of suburban Chicago traffic-stop drug searches found that sniffer dogs are usually wrong — that 56 percent of all “positive” signals by dogs yielded no contraband (73 percent failure if the driver was Hispanic).

Recurring Themes

(1) Which Branch Is Best? Dustin Jakes, 27, an Army soldier, was arrested for shooting drinking buddy David Provost, 24, a Navy sailor, in Florence, Ariz., on Christmas Day. They argued over which service was better (and since Jakes had the gun, the answer was “Army”). (2) Mark Richard-

son, 21, of Oklahoma City is the most recent con man to seek caregivers to attend to him intimately as he dresses in a diaper, feigns autism and claims to require constant care. Richardson’s mother admitted to The Oklahoman newspaper that her son is “not your average, everyday, walking-the-street citizen.”

Rape Victims Re-Victimized

• “H.S.,” a high school cheerleader in Silsbee, Texas, claimed sexual assault in October 2008 by a classmate-athlete, who a year later was indicted (and pleaded guilty to simple assault, receiving a suspended sentence). In February 2009, while the attacker was still denying culpability, H.S., though cheering for the team at a basketball game, refused to specifically cheer for her attacker and was kicked off the squad. A federal judge and appeals court subsequently ruled that H.S. had no right to withhold her cheering (though the attacker’s right to falsely claim innocence remained inviolate).

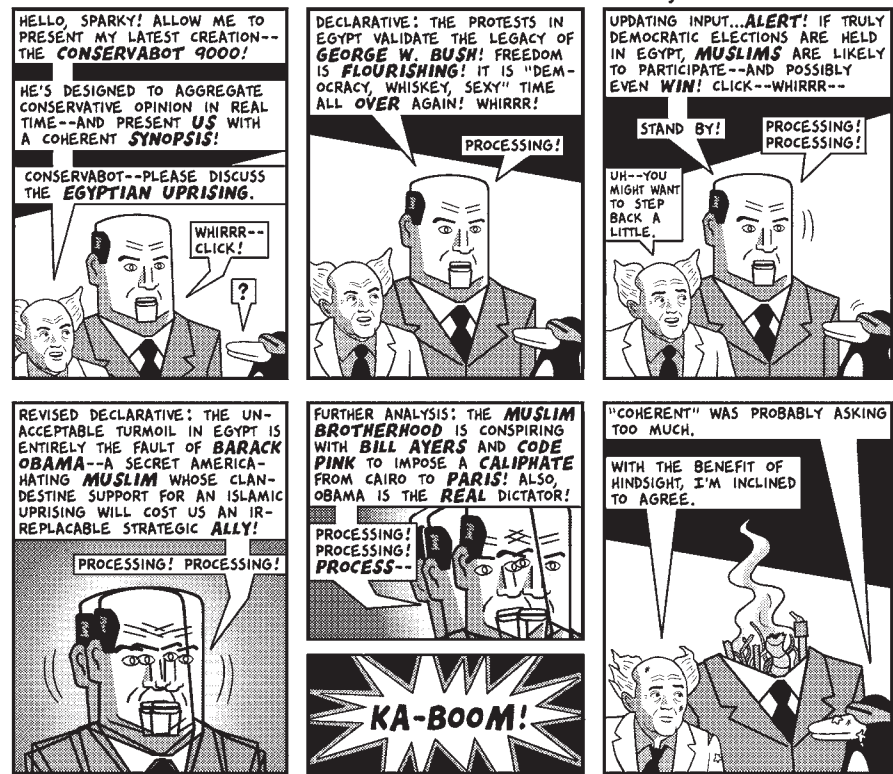
CORRECTION

Two weeks ago, News of the Weird reported that Charles Clements of Chicago received a sentence of only four months’ probation for fatally shooting a neighbor after the neighbor’s dog had urinated on his manicured lawn. Actually, Clements was sentenced to four years’ probation. I apologize for the error.

Thanks This Week to Gerald Sacks, Kim Hayes, J.B. Sherrick, Glen Eichenblatt, Gary Locke, Bruce Leiserowitz, Carl Reine, Jonathan Cole, Josh Mauthe, and Carl Fink, and to the News of the Weird Senior Advisors (Jenny T. Beatty, Paul Di Filippo, Ginger Katz, Joe Littrell, Matt Mirapaul, Paul Music, Karl Olson, and Jim Sweeney) and Board of Editorial Advisors (Tom Barker, Paul Blumstein, Harry Farkas, Sam Gaines, Herb Jue, Emory Kimbrough, Scott Langill, Steve Miller, Christopher Nalty, Mark Neunder, Bob Pert, Larry Ellis Reed, Rob Snyder, Stephen Taylor, Bruce Townley, and Jerry Whitte). And for the accomplished and joyous cynic, try News of the Weird Pro Edition, at <http://NewsOfTheWeird.blogspot.com>.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



User’s guide to The Hippo

Need some help to navigate the Hippo? Here is the contact information to fulfill all your Hippo needs:

Press releases

Send press releases (that include time, dates and location of the event plus contact information for the public and, if different, contact information for our reporters) to news@hippopress.com.

That is a general mail box. To reach reporters with specific sections of the paper:

- **Arts** — Send information on exhibits, theatrical productions, classical music events, art and theater classes and auditions to Adam Coughlin at arts@hippopress.com. You can also reach him by phone at 625-1855 ext. 12.
- **Books** — Send information on book-related events (including author events, book clubs, poetry events and more) to Books Editor Lisa Parsons at lparsons@hippopress.com. Books submitted for review will not be returned. Books can be submitted for review or mention to Lisa Parsons, The Hippo, 49 Hollis St., Manchester, NH, 03104. Books submitted will be considered for review but are not guaranteed review or mention.
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- **News** — Send information about new businesses, political events and other items intended for the news section to jmucciarone@hippopress.com. You can also reach him at 625-1855 ext. 36.

Not sure who to send it to? You can also contact editor Amy Diaz at adiaz@hippopress.com or call 625-1855 ext. 29.

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to the editor to news@hippopress.com. Include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters will be edited for size and will appear in our occasional comments section.

General submissions

The Hippo does not accept unsolicited articles, photos, illustrations or guest columns for publication. Submissions will not be returned or acknowledged.

Display advertisements

Contact Charlene Cesarini at 625-1855 ext. 26 or at ccesarini@hippopress.com or Jody Reese at 625-1855 ext. 21 or at jreese@hippopress.com for information on placing a display advertisement.

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The space reservation deadline is Monday at noon. The ad materials deadline is Monday at 3 p.m. Contact your ad rep or Charlene Cesarini for more information.

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